

Who's next? – Part 2 (April 30, 2017)

This morning – I want to talk about giving.

Unfortunately, some churches have focussed so much on the giving of money that when we talk of giving all it brings to mind is visions of dollars.

Yes, God wants you to use His money wisely – but He is concerned with far more than that.

When I talk about giving – I mean using **everything** God has entrusted to us – abilities, time, resources, opportunities – everything – and using them for kingdom purposes.

I want to begin by confessing I do not like to talk about giving. I wish this was Dave up here or anyone else but me.

Why? Because when I talk on giving often all you actually hear is – great they want my money.

No! I don't want your money – because it isn't yours – it is God's – **and** He doesn't need it – **but** He *does* care what you do with His money.

Moreover, money is only one part of giving – but it is often the one we struggle with the most. Martin Luther astutely observed:

There are *three* conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the mind *and* the wallet.

Of these three, it may well be that the conversion of the wallet is the most difficult.

So, in case it doesn't come across later – let me be clear upfront – if you are a cheerless, joyless giver – just keep your money and resources – God does **not** need them. **But**, He offers you the privilege of giving because of the blessings it brings. Grudging giving brings you nothing – so you might as well use it selfishly.

So, yes we will talk about money – but I very much want to remind you that stewardship refers to **all** of our resources – time, abilities, possessions – **everything** we have – and it is one of the great privileges and joys of the Christian life.

God wants every part of you that He has entrusted to your care.

The second reason I struggle to speak on this topic is that I get so convicted of how far I fall short of what God demands.

So why speak on this?

This is the second of a three part series – **Who's Next?**

Who's Next – To Grow?

Who's Next – To Give?

Who's Next – To Go?

This series is meant to show you what it will take if this church and Corinda are going to actually carry out:

Our vision:

To see the Gospel permeate and transform Brisbane and beyond through a network of biblically faithful churches.

And:

Our mission:

To proclaim Christ, to equip and mature His saints, and to plant other churches who share our vision.

Last week we asked – who's going to be next to join us in this task to say – I own this vision and mission and I want to be a part of it.

And the first step was we need to be prepared – we need to **grow** and become the mature equipped saints the Lord can use.

This week I want to ask this question:

Who's next – to give?

In 1 Corinthians 4:7 Paul asks this searching question:

What do you have that you did not receive?

The answer is nothing.

Absolutely nothing.

Here are a few of the many blessings entrusted to us by God.

- **Salvation**
- **Life**
- **Natural abilities**
- **Spiritual gifts**
- **Opportunities**
- **Time**
- **Education**
- **Church**
- **Family**

- **Money**
- **Resources**
- **Providence**

I have run through this so you know that giving refers to a lot more than money.

The Lord has entrusted each of us with talents – abilities, time, money, resources even our lives. It is our responsibility to use them for kingdom purposes.

My point this morning can be summed up in a famous quote by Jim Elliot:

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

So, in a sense the question of this morning's message is this – who is next to give what he is going to lose anyway to gain what he can never lose?

The stewardship of God's resources is not some peripheral part of the Christian life.

This week I was reading the new articles on **The Gospel Coalition** website. One of them was by Tim Challies entitled – **8 sins you commit when you look at porn.**

Great article, but it got me thinking. God speaks far, far more about stewardship than He does about porn.

So I wondered – how many sins do we commit when we fail the test of stewardship?

I looked at Challies' list and five of the eight he mentioned applied directly to stewardship. You could easily scratch out porn at the top and substitute – greed or poor stewardship because they apply equally well.

What sins do you commit when you are a poor steward?:

Idolatry

Colossians 3:5 tells us that greed is idolatry.

Matt Papa says this: "An idol, simply put, is anything that is more important to you than God. It is anything that has outweighed God in your life—anything that you love, trust, or obey more than God—anything that has replaced God as essential to your happiness."

This was the problem of the Rich Young Ruler – ultimately his wealth was his god. That was what was truly important to him.

I think idolatry is the root sin involved in poor stewardship but there are others.

Sloth

When the Lord berated the faithless servants in the parable of the talents He told them they were slothful.

As Challies said – We are called in all of life to “redeem the time,” to understand that we live short little lives and are responsible before God to make the most of every moment (Ephesians 5:16).

Sloth is laziness, an unwillingness to use God’s resources entrusted to us.

Ignoring the Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God tells us that all we have is from God and for God. To ignore this is to ignore the witness of the Spirit.

Deceit

In Acts 5 – Ananias claimed to have given all the proceeds of a land sale to the Lord’s work. Peter said he lied to the Holy Spirit and to the Lord.

The assumption is that Christians are giving regularly to the work of the kingdom – but if you aren’t – be careful – the Lord knows.

Theft

This can come on many levels – such as not paying the full amount of our taxes or being dishonest in our business dealings.

Those five were the sins that directly corresponded to Challies’ list – but there are others. Here is just a few other sins you commit when you are a poor steward:

Greed

1 Timothy 6:9–10:

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.

Apostasy

1 Timothy 6:10:

It is through this craving [for money] that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Dissatisfaction

In Philippians 4:11-12 Paul says:

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ... In any and every circumstance, ... facing ... abundance and need.

Dissatisfaction with the level of resources entrusted to us is sin.

Selfishness

So many of the parables speak of using the resources of the Lord for ourselves instead of the kingdom.

We can be more concerned with living an easy life than seeing His kingdom come.

We can fail to use God's wealth for God's kingdom.

Living for this world

The story of the rich man and Lazarus teach us that riches make us see this world as all important when it is not.

There are many more as well.

What is my point?

When we commit an obvious sin like looking at porn we feel guilty and repent.

But – while stewardship is a subject that is found everywhere in the pages of Scripture and Jesus spoke more about the dangers of poor stewardship than He did on any other subject – most of us don't fret too much over our poor stewardship.

We should.

When is the last time you repented of poor stewardship?

To show you why we have to take this area seriously, I want to look for a moment at a passage – the Parable of the Talents.

Matthew 25:14–30:

For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents

came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

I want you to notice a couple of points here.

First, notice that everything the servants had belonged to the Master.

As well, notice that every servant was entrusted with talents but each servant was entrusted different amounts of talents. Five, two and one.

If you look around this congregation – there are varieties of talents.

Some are well-paid professionals, some unemployed.

Some own homes, some don't.

Some have families, some don't.

Some have greater gifts in terms of mental or physical or talents.

Some have greater financial and possession resources.

Some have great spiritual gifts, some less.

Some have more time, others less.

But **everyone** – everyone – has some a stewardship of resources from God entrusted to them.

Notice then that Jesus said that the servants were not judged on how many talents they were originally given – but they were judged by what they did with what was entrusted to them.

Perhaps some are sitting here lamenting they are a just a one or two talent saint. I don't have a great job, not much money, not uber-talented.

Well join the line – that is most of us. Not many Pauls, Calvins and Spurgeons here.

That is not the point. The point is – are you using every ounce of what God did give you for the kingdom – or are you wasting it?

Both the five and two talent servant heard – well done good and faithful servant.

The one talent servant would have heard that if he was faithful.

Jesus has a word for you. If you really are a one or two talent Christian – not a five talent Christian – fine – just use what God gave you to His glory.

As Robert Murray McCheyne said:

It is not great talents God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus.

In this church – there are some men and women of incredible talent and abilities and resources – **and** men and women with less talent and abilities and resources – and in **both** groups are *some* who are doing and giving very little for the kingdom. You know who you are.

Busyness, career, family, life, selfishness – sucks all you have. You keep telling yourself – one day I'll get around to using what I have – just not today.

Well – you are burying your talents – and God is unhappy.

And that leads to the second point I want to make from this passage.

The Master is coming back.

Matthew 24 and 25 are a series of teachings on what is going to happen when Jesus returns.

At the end of chapter 24 Jesus said this:

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 24:45–51.

We have been set over the possessions of God and at a day and hour that we least expect – the Master will come and seek an accounting for our stewardship.

Chapter 25 of Matthew then gives a series of teachings on this accounting of our stewardship.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins asks – will you be ready for the return of Master? Will He find you using everything for the work of the kingdom or will He find you drowsy and sleeping – ignoring the kingdom task?

Then comes the Parable of the Talents that we have already looked at.

Finally, comes the Judgment of the sheep and the goats – where Jesus will ask us what kingdom work we did to help the least. Did we use His resources to feed, clothe and comfort others?

Jesus has been as clear as He can – He is coming and He will demand an accounting for our stewardship – we have been warned.

So, in light of this – we need to give – we need to use **His** resources for **His** kingdom work.

How do we do this? I want to suggest we do four things.

- Give yourself fully to Christ.
- Inventory your resources.
- Open your eyes to the opportunity.
- Prayerfully seek God's leading.

First:

- Give yourself fully to Christ

You will **never** use God's resources for the kingdom till you first give yourself.

Last week we looked at 2 Corinthians 8 – where Paul reminded the Corinthians of the churches of Macedonia. Persecuted churches, poor in fact so poor Paul says they were in extreme poverty.

But, out of their their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty, they overflowed in a wealth of generosity. When they heard of Paul's mission they begged for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints and they gave beyond their means.

What was the impetus behind their incredible generosity?

In 2 Corinthians 8:5 – Paul says – they gave themselves **first** to the Lord and **then** by the will of God to us – to the leaders of the church.

First, you have to realise that everything you have is God's – and He has entrusted it to you to use on His behalf.

James White makes this telling point:

It's not how much money you have – it is how much you love it.

Who have you given your life to – God or money?

If you are unsure – then here are some screening questions to help you gauge who your God truly is?

Unfortunately, most of us – especially me – will squirm at these.

- **Could you willingly give up everything?**

Put yourself in the shoes of the rich young ruler.

Would you sell all your possessions and give it all to the poor if Jesus commanded you?

I have asked myself that a number of times over the years – and the answers were often not as good as I wanted.

If Jesus asked that of me – I'm pretty sure I would hesitate. But Lord I have a family – they need a house and food and stuff. Surely you don't mean everything? How about a hefty donation?

But then I thought more – if that is what it would take to lead to eternal life – bargain. If that is the cost to show my family and church what the cost of discipleship is – then that is a bargain.

It would not be easy – but I would trust I would do it – because I would gain Christ.

- **Are you serving two masters?**

I tell you – you can't do it – you just **can't** do it.

Do money and the things and power it brings dominate your life?

Is it what you think about it, worry about, seek?

Does it occupy more time and emotion than God?

1 Timothy 6:6–10:

Godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

If you want treasure in heaven – lay down that idol.

- **Do you live sacrificially?**

Gulp! One of the questions we want to avoid.

Do you view the money in your wallet as God's money and yourself as a steward?

Do you have a budget and would God approve of it?

Do you have such a large mortgage and debts that it forces the husband to work huge hours, the wife to pick up the pieces often including a fair number of hours working? DO you say – I am so tapped out there is nothing left for the Lord? Do you just say – I would give properly if I could – I just can't?

Where do missionaries, the church, the poor, the Lord – fit into your budget? Afterthoughts or priorities?

Does your giving affect the way you live? If you only give to where it might hurt and change the way you live – if you don't deny yourself some purchase, some holiday, some upgrade – you *may* love money too much.

Are you a student? Do you tell yourself – how can I give anything I am but a student – and yet you find money for lattes and movies?

What would you do if you inherited a large chunk of money? Would you just think of you or would you think of the Lord?

CT Studd – the famous missionary – knew money was an idol for him so when he inherited a fortune he just gave it all away.

As Paul said in Philippians 3 – what he once thought was gain – was actually an idol – it was loss. He had to lay them all down – count them as rubbish – in order to gain Christ.

If something is an idol – fight it with every fibre of your being.

Give yourself fully to Christ.

I ran my life through this list – and without doubt there are areas I need to improve on. There really are.

I feel very convicted. I know I have to fight this beast. Maybe you do too.

Does this mean every Christian has to sell everything to get to heaven?

No. But if it is an idol – maybe.

There are Christians who *can* handle riches. They don't love money. They use it wisely. They use it to benefit the kingdom.

Men like Abraham and Job and Boaz and David and Joseph of Arimathea were wealthy – but they had a very loose hold on their riches.

As I say this – don't find yourself whispering to yourself – phew – I think I am one who can handle it.

Most of us struggle.

It can draw our focus from God. It can make us self-reliant. It can harden our heart. It can make us love this world.

Wealth lets us indulge our other idols.

It can be a deadly danger to every one of us.

If it is an idol for you – lay it down at the feet of Christ.

Know that this world is temporary and the world to come is eternal.

Then – once you have given yourself fully to Christ:

- Inventory your resources

So often I talk to Christians who tell me they don't have enough resources to make any kind of difference.

First, God wants your heart more than your resources. He has every resource possible.

It is just that our stewardship reflects the state of our heart.

But as well, I **guarantee** you have more resources than you think.

Some tell me – I don't have great talents, I don't have a great job, my budget is stretched, I am time poor.

In terms of wealth, training, education, opportunity – those sitting here are among the most blessed saints in history.

You have more access to Bible resources than anyone before you and most in this world.

You have good teaching and access to any kind of equipping you want.

You are in the wealthiest 1 or 2% of people on the planet.

And even in terms of Australia – I am amazed at those who tell me they have absolutely no time or money to give – one glance at their Facebook page screams – not true.

Remember as well, the Macedonians gave out of their extreme poverty.

And if you still need convincing you have more than you think – just make an inventory of the resources you have.

I told you earlier – **everything** you have comes from God.

Everything.

Then I pointed out what some of those blessings are:

Salvation

We are saved by grace and not by our works. We are saved by the electing will of God. And we were saved for a *purpose* (Ephesians 2:1-10).

Life

1 Samuel 2:6:

The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

Life and death are in the hand of the Lord.

We breathe only because He said – live.

We enter eternity when He says – time.

He gave you live to serve Him.

Natural abilities

If you can sing, cook, hammer, paint, plan – God gave you that.

If you have mental abilities, physical abilities, ability to earn – it comes from above.

If you are a professional or a tradesman or have any other expertise – God gave that to you.

Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights (James 1:17).

Spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians 12 tells us every Christian has spiritual gifts, that any spiritual gift we have was bestowed by the sovereign grace and purpose of God and that to not use your gifts harms the whole body.

If you can teach or lead or encourage – any gift – it is from Him.

If you have never worked out what gifts you have or you never use those gifts – that is burying your gift.

Opportunities

We were born in a very blessed time and place in world history. This is a blessed country and it provides so many opportunities.

We have a stable government, free education, social welfare.

We are so blessed and it all comes from the Lord.

Time

Job 14:5 says:

Our days are determined, and the number of his months is with the Lord, and He has appointed our limits that we cannot pass.

Every day is a gift to you from God in which to serve Him.

Education

Everyone in this country receives at least 10 years of education. Then the government says – have two more and if you want it lends you money to get a degree or do a trade.

There are three good Bible Colleges in Brisbane and dozens online.

You can get educated and equipped in ways our forebears could only dream of.

Another blessing from above.

Church

We can meet in peace, own Bibles in our native language and share the gospel legally.

We have a good church, a wonderful congregation and collectively so many resources.

Family

If you were born into a good family – thank God.

If you have a good family now – thank God.

That family is a stewardship from God – to raise children, show the love of Christ to the church, bless the saints and be a refuge from the world.

Money

No one starves in this country. We have good social welfare.

The people in this room are rich by historical and global standards.

Whatever money, superannuation, investments you have – the Scriptures say that this comes from God as a stewardship.

Resources

Some have more, some have less. We all have resources.

House, car, books, furniture, phone, computer.

Everything is loaned to you from above.

Providence

By birth or migration God brought you to this blessed country.

You did not choose your looks, your health, your situation.

Whether you are able bodied or not.

You did not choose your intelligence, abilities, gifts.

God has providentially brought you – with your unique blend of resources, abilities, gifts to **this** time and place – for His purposes.

God has raised **you** up for such a time as this.

Don't waste it.

What do I mean?

I listed out twelve God-given stewardships – there are literally dozens more.

You are blessed.

You are among the most blessed people on earth and in all of earth's history.

Sometimes I feel daunted by just how much God has given to me – knowing to whom much has been entrusted – much is required.

Who you are today – your family, your skills, your job, your possessions, your time, your experience, all of it – it is all a gift from God entrusted to you for kingdom purposes.

God did not bless you and say – you seem a nice person so enjoy my riches until I come back – **then** good news – you get more riches for eternity.

No! – God said – as stewards, as representatives, as sons – I entrust you with **My** resources to use for **My** kingdom. We will discuss how you have done when I return.

Every day we make a choice – do I use everything I am and have for selfish or kingdom purposes?

Do I lay up treasure on earth where rust and moth destroy or do I lay up treasure in heaven that can **never** be snatched away?

There is at *third* thing we must do.

- Open your eyes to the opportunity.

Sometimes I think this is the point where Christians are almost intentionally blind.

They tell me – I looked around and there are no opportunities.

Really – there are no kingdom needs?

Talk to me.

I think that while many of us are unaware of the full extent of the stewardship resources we have – truth is we can't help but know realise many of them.

But it is at this next step that we regularly struggle.

We look around and for some reason we don't see the gaping opportunities and needs.

We tell ourselves – OK I am not called to be a pastor or a missionary or a leader. I am just your normal everyday Christian.

So, my responsibility, my opportunity is limited to putting a few dollars in the offering – and since I need it more than God does – I do mean a few – and since I can't escape from Dot I will grudgingly agree to go on the morning tea roster and the cleaning roster – and hope I am working that weekend so I can click the substitute button with a clear conscience.

Then we say – I have met the needs around me.

God gave me all these blessings and I have done what He wants.

No! God asks for way more than some giving and serving on a couple of rosters.

There are opportunities everywhere.

Men and women to be discipled – to have the gospel shared with them.

Single mums and working mums who need help.

Young men and women who need some guidance and wisdom.

Take someone a meal when they are sick.

Write someone an encouraging note.

Open your home to others.

Intentionally train your children to see ministry and missions as a wonderful way to use their life.

Lend someone a car.

Let someone use your house.

Everything you are and have can be used for the kingdom.

Here is a practical one. When we get a visa for Rob and April and bring them out – they actually have almost nothing and no resources to buy anything. Maybe God allowed you to have some good quality surplus furniture or appliances – you can give it to them.

And even though I hate talking money – I am going to talk money. Here are some gospel money opportunities.

Grace Bible Church Corinda has now filled their building. In the next few weeks they plan on knocking out a stage and wall and recarpeting it to add 40 extra seats. That will cost up to \$15,000.

And here at Holland Park – because we had planned on moving we have not taken care of upgrades and maintenance.

We didn't move so now we are faced with upgrades and maintenance.

We need to replace the leaking roof over the annex and that is a big job.

We need to repair and repaint much of the church.

We need to upgrade some of the sound equipment.

Those need to be done. That will cost us upwards of \$70,000.

We hope to totally restructure the back hall to give us more usable rooms for Friday and Sunday. That will cost upwards of \$30,000.

So, the Elders have decided to do something we have not done for a long, long time – take up a special offering.

Both Corinda and Holland Park will do that on May 28. We are going to make it so no one feels compelled to give. You can give online leading up to that date or you can put it in the offering boxes that day.

We will try and cover the costs for Corinda to renovate – \$15,000. Anything above that will go towards repairs and upgrades here.

And if we have one offering – why not two.

We decided that when their visa is approved – we will take an offering for those who might like to help get Rob and April – our new Pastor and his family out here – and help them set up here.

What else is in the pipeline?

Corinda is already too big for just Ben to shepherd. We need to fund someone part-time to help him there.

And while we are at it – let's dream even bigger.

In Logan right now – as there often are – there are a number of church buildings for sale. A couple would be absolutely ideal for a church plant – but none are cheap.

And these are very different properties in very different areas with very different opportunities.

The Elders are considering talking to you about whether you would want to give towards purchasing one of those opportunities for the church plant.

Also, here is something else on the longer term radar. The plan at Corinda is renovate to expand. Then if it grows – go to two services. But if they fill those services – as we expect they will in a couple of years – we plan on doing a major renovation to add seats, offices and Sunday School rooms and I don't want to know what that will cost.

Look – we don't want to guilt anyone into anything – but many may want the opportunity to be involved in this way.

We plan on talking to the members to see if this is something you might want to do.

We want to do this because this is something you have regularly put your hand up and said – count me in.

When our church was just starting – we bought a small building in Annerley.

People gave so sacrificially we paid it off in 18 months.

When we bought this building – again people gave generously and sacrificially and again we paid this off in a couple of years.

Your faithfulness astounded me.

When we looked at buying the Motorama building we asked if you wanted to help and the pledges that came in were incredible.

We have seen again and again what God can do through His people to transform Brisbane and beyond through ordinary men and women like us.

So we plan on asking – is this good stewardship of the resources the Lord has entrusted to us – and do you want to be involved?

Finally, I want to encourage you to:

- Prayerfully seek God's leading

We want to do this individually and corporately.

You should do this prayerfully before the Lord.

Take your inventory – all the resources, gifts, abilities, possessions, training, opportunities you have and ask – Lord how do You want me to use what You have entrusted to me for Your kingdom?

Ask:

Am I wasting the life He gave me?

Am I squandering His resources?

How can I be used for the kingdom – especially as we gear up to plant another church?

What opportunities can I help to meet?

What are the tasks that God can never fill – should I put up my hand?

Is there someone who knows less than I do to teach them and disciple them?

Am I training my children such that going into ministry or missions is not something they say – I'll never do that?

If you pray the prayer of Isaiah – Here I am – send me – God will answer that prayer.

God gave you these blessing for a purpose.

And we need to pray corporately.

To that end – the Elders have set aside a Tuesday night – May 16. We hope you can all come and pray on that evening for God to open our eyes, equip us and use us for kingdom purposes.

The harvest is plentiful. We need to beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.

We know He will answer us.

Look, if you are new here – please know this sermon series is not our regular fare. In fact this is *very* unusual for us. If you found it uncomfortable – I can tell you I was more uncomfortable.

We are doing it because the Elders believe we have an opportunity for every one of us to be involved in what the Lord is doing.

So brothers and sisters – I truly hope this message came across right.

I certainly didn't intend this to be a guilting you to give sermon. No!

But, I make no apology for telling you that you need to be wise stewards – you need to ask God what that means in your life.

I want you to understand our heart here.

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

I want you to be blessed in this life **and** when the Lord returns.

I want you to know the joy of being wise stewards.

I want you to know the pleasure of being part of what the Lord is doing.

I want you to hear – well done good and faithful servant.

I want you to use everything you are to make much of God and His Son.

I want you to give yourself to the glory of the King.

So – Who is next to give?

Who's Next To Give? (April 30, 2017)

Main Point: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

General Questions:

1. Does the word 'giving' make you think almost solely about money? Should it?
2. What are the sins you can think of that we commit when we are poor stewards?
3. What lessons does the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30) have for us in terms of stewardship?
4. What are the criteria the Lord will use to hold our stewardship accountable?
5. Discuss how to decide if purchasing a church building for the church plant is good stewardship for our church or not?

Application Questions:

Discuss these questions:

1. In what ways have you been a faithful steward with the Lord's resources?
2. In what ways have you been an unfaithful steward with the Lord's resources?
3. How do you think the Lord will judge your stewardship?
4. Does talking about giving make you uncomfortable or not? Why?
5. Could you willingly give up everything?
6. Are you serving two masters?
7. Do you live sacrificially?
8. What are the resources entrusted to you? Make a list of them.
9. How can each of these be used for the kingdom?
10. What gospel/kingdom opportunities do you see: in the church, in your workplace, in your neighbourhood, in your family, in evangelism, in missions, in church planting?
11. How can you give to join us in our vision and mission?

Please spend time in prayer praying for how the Lord would have you/us use the resources we have for His glory.