



VICTORY CHURCH

Big Idea

Pastor Mark Johnson

This week, Pastor Mark Johnson asked this question: “Whose is it?” The answer is God’s. You’re wondering what “it” is, right? It is money. God owns everything. We only steward, or manage, what He puts into our hands. God created the first man, Adam, and gave him a garden to steward. It is extremely important to God that His servants learn to be good stewards. This principle is demonstrated throughout the Bible, but especially in the parable of the talents. Jesus is coming back to settle accounts with all of His servants. That means we are accountable for how we manage what He puts in our hands.

We also benefit from good stewardship because it leads to more blessing in our lives. God promises to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others. But He can’t open the windows of Heaven the way He wants to unless we’re being responsible stewards. This is true even if we are generous givers. So, we need to learn how to set a budget and manage our finances properly. Therefore, we manage our finances with generosity, wisdom, and an understanding that God retains ultimate ownership of every blessing He sends our way. Pastor Mark applies Jesus’ parable of the three servants or stewards from Matthew 25 to our lives regarding money. Notice the differences and similarities between the servants: abilities, amount, actions, attitude toward their master, the master’s attitude toward them, and the results of their actions. Also find out who is responsible for your money and the blessing of using money God’s way. It is because of Jesus that we have anything at all!

Discussion Questions

- All that we have belongs to God but He only requires that we give 10% back to Him in the form of our tithe. Discuss why all we have belongs to God and why a tithe is important to Him.
- Share what types of fears or concerns, if any, you wrestle with most when thinking about the principle of first? Discuss why it is sometimes easier to believe that we are saved by faith than it is to believe by faith that God will bless us and care for our needs?
- Proverbs 3:9–10 says that we are to honor the Lord with our possessions and with the first fruits of all our increase. Take a minute to reflect on a time that you gave your time, talents, tithe, or offering. It could be big or little. Share how you felt about yourself when you gave.

Prayer Focus

Pray that God would show you any area of your finances where you are not approaching things with His perspective. Ask Him to help you live for eternity and show you how to leverage your resources for the sake of heaven. Thank Him for His future provision and blessing with which you will be able to make an even greater difference.

Next Steps

Examine your approach to money and personal finances and ask God to show you any areas in which you are not aligned with His principles. As you earn, spend, save, invest and give be mindful of the fact that everything you have belongs to Him and that you are merely managing what He has given you.

Leader Tip

When ministering to those in your group, remember ESPN: Encourage, Share Scripture, Pray, Next Steps.