

MAXIMIZE YOUR MONEY

4 STANDARDS TO HOLD TO

April 28, 2024

Matthew 25:14-30—*Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

STANDARD #1: Ownership

Matthew 25:14-15—*Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.*

Psalms 24:1—*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it...*

Matthew 6:19-21—*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

STANDARD #2: Stewardship

Matthew 25:16-18—*The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

1 Corinthians 4:2—*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

Malachi 3:10—*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”*

Matthew 23:23—*Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.*

Matthew 5:17—*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

Deuteronomy 14:22-23—*Be sure to set aside a tenth... so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.*

STANDARD #3: Accountability

Matthew 25:19-25—*After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them...*

1 Timothy 6:17-19—*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

ACTION PLAN

- > Choose to be generous.
- > Plan your giving.
- > Give with joy.
- > Trust God to provide for you.
- > Believe God is at work in your life.

STANDARD #4: Reward

Matthew 25:21,23,26-30—*His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness...’*

Colossians 3:23-24—*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

10 BENEFITS OF TITHING & GENEROUS GIVING

1. God is pleased and rewards our obedience.

Malachi 3:10 (NRSA)—*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse... and thus put me to the test... see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.*

2. God desires our faithfulness.

Proverbs 3:9—*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.*

3. It helps keep our priorities straight.

Matthew 6:21—*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

4. It aligns our heart and actions with the heart of Christ.

Matthew 23:23—*Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.*

5. It guards us from selfishness.

Acts 20:35—*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

6. God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-12—*...Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

7. It supports the Great Commission and the Work of God.

Matthew 28:19-20—*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always...*

8. It ensures your needs will be met.

Matthew 6:33—*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you...*

9. It helps to meet the needs of God's people.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2—*Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*

10. It reminds us that God is the true owner and giver of all that we have.

1 Timothy 6:17-18—*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

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All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.

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STUDY GUIDE: 4/28/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

STUDY QUESTIONS

This week, discuss all 10 benefits to tithing and generous giving that Pastor Rob outlined in point 4. Walk through each benefit and verse in detail. Why are these benefits important and what do they mean to you?