

Management that Matters: Left in Charge

Matthew 25:14-30

Small Group Discussion

Opening question (this question is designed to get everyone involved in discussion)

- What possession of yours would you be least likely to entrust to another person for safekeeping? Why?

Read Matthew 25:14-30, then discuss the following.

- When Jesus says, “it will be like,” in v. 14, what is “it?” The answer to this question will reveal what topic Jesus is addressing in this parable.
 - Jesus is describing what it looks like to live now, in light of his future coming. How hard or easy is it for you to live today in light of Jesus’ future coming?
- What is your initial impression of the three money managers? What about the master?
- Pastor Josh summarized this parable by saying, **God has made you a manager of something, and how you handle it will have eternal significance.** Would you agree with that summary of the story? Why or why not?
- There are two principles that undergird Jesus’ intended message. Discuss as follows.
 - ***It’s all God’s. Everything that you have is a gift from God, which he has entrusted to you for a time.***
 - Where do you see this principle in the parable?
 - How do you feel about this fact? Do you believe it? Do you push back for any reason?
 - ***A wrong view of God will lead to wrong management of resources—and God is more good and generous than we imagine.***
 - What was wrong with the third servant’s view of the master?
 - Where, in this story, do you see the goodness and generosity of God demonstrated?
 - How does our view of God impact the way we manage our resources?

Practical application: As a way of processing the big principle of this story, take some time to work through the following suggestions from Sunday’s sermon.

- ***Take stock of what resources God has entrusted to you.*** Take a few minutes, and using a piece of scrap paper or your phone, do an “inventory” of what God has entrusted to you to use for his glory. Think especially through these areas: time, health, finances, vocational gifts, relationships, and educational opportunities. Also note any other resources that come to mind.
 - Are there any resources that you notice now, which you are not leveraging for God’s purposes?
- ***Stop comparing yourself (and your resources) with others.***
 - Josh said, “As long as you’re thinking that the people with more [resources], are the ones who can really make a difference for God in this world, you’re going to miss out on the dignity and joy of seeing God multiply what he has entrusted to you for his purposes.” Why is this the case?
 - Do you tend to compare what you have or don’t have with other people?
- ***Be strategic.***
 - How strategic are you currently being with the resources you listed above?
 - What might it look like to take a strategic approach to leveraging those gifts for God’s purposes?

Share and Pray

- Share your needs with one another and pray for them specifically.
- If you feel comfortable doing so, “offer up” your resources to God in prayer, for his purposes.