

TAKING IT HOME

Read Luke 12:41-48

13. Jesus says that “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required.” How much do you believe you have been given?

14. How close are you to doing all that you can do with what you have been given?

Bonus Questions:

15. Surveys show that the average giving for church members to churches in America is less than 3%. What could God’s church do at an average of 5%?

16. Is today’s church using the tithe faithfully?

PRAYER GUIDE

Praise & Thanksgiving:

Heather & Andy Royer adopted baby Emma Rhea

Pray for healing:

Carol Kendall’s grandson Devin-broken arm

Pray for:

Each week we pray for a UMC from our district, this week:Lake Mills UMC, their pastor Bill McBride and the 409 members.

Recovery of our economy. All families struggling with unemployment.

Generous hearts

Sugar River Mission Team

Sugar River United Methodist Church

SERMON OUTLINE

for Sunday, November 15, 2009

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

“Defined by Generosity”

Worship Series Resource: Adam Hamilton, UMCOR, KS

Text: 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Proverbs 11:24-25, 22:9

Pastor Gary Holmes

1. A Theological Foundation for a Generous Life

- A. Created to be Generous; Tempted to Hoard
- B. Defeating the Voices of fear and self-gratification
- C. Biblical Reasons to Give to God and Others
Acts 20:35, Matthew 16:25, Psalm 24:1, Leviticus 25:23
- D. Biblical Guidelines for Giving
Genesis 14:20, 28:18-22, Leviticus 27:30-33, Luke 11:42

2. What Our Giving Means to God

- A. How Does Our Giving Affect God?
- B. What is God’s response to our giving?
Luke 6:38, Matthew 25:14-30

3. How Our Generosity Affects Us

- A. Through It Our Hearts Are Changed
- B. In It We Find the Blessings of God
Malachi 3:10

4. Personal Goals and Commitment

See inserts

GROWTH GUIDE – Sugar River UMC For the week of November 15, 2009

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What's the most meaningful gift you ever received? What about the most meaningful gift you've ever given?

2. Who do you consider to be a generous person? What do they do that makes you think that way?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 14:18-24.

3. How did Abraham, early in Bible history, show that generosity is one of the characteristics of those who follow God?

1 Timothy 6.17-19 (NIV):

¹⁷Command 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.

¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In 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.

4. How would your life change if you truly lived out "trust God and share generously"?

5. How do you know when you've set your hopes on something uncertain rather than on God?

6. Do you give as described in v. 18 for the rewards of v. 19?



Proverbs 11.24-25

Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; Others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water. (NRSV)

One scatters money around, yet only adds to his wealth, another is excessively mean, but only grows the poorer. The soul who blesses will prosper, Whoever satisfies others will also be satisfied. (NJB)

7. In what form does this enrichment/reward/prosperity/blessing come back to you?

8. Do you think this Proverbs passage is speaking only in terms of money?

9. How practical is it to give so freely? How do you balance your own needs with the never-ending needs of others?

Read Acts 4:32-35.

10. How did the members of the earliest church, the gathering of Christians in Jerusalem, express their spirit of generosity?

11. Discuss the ways in which a 21st Century church in Verona, Wisconsin could realistically follow their example.