

SERMON OUTLINE

3745 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Sunday Morning 9/30/07

“Am I a River or a Reservoir?”

I. Topic to be Discussed

- A. Jesus said: Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38 - “Give...”
- B. River or Reservoir? Gifts flow through us or end with us?
- C. This Morning
 - 1. Are you a Giver? Does your life reflect the life of Christ?
 - 2. We will take basic principles from Matthew 25:14-30

II. Principles in Being a Giver

- A. Principle #1: God Owns It - He Asks Us to Manage It
 - 1. Matthew 25:14-15 - Entrusted his possessions to them
 - 2. A talent: My estimate (38 yrs of wages) = \$1 Million
 - a. Don't focus on what you don't have: Exod 4:10-12
 - b. What has God given you?
 - 3. Ephesians 3:20 - “does far more abundantly beyond...”
- B. Principle #2: God Expects Us to Use His Gift for His Purpose
 - 1. Matthew 25:16-18 - Traded with his money
 - a. In vs 14 - entrusted = use them to do MY will
 - b. Matthew 25:21,23 - “faithful” - fulfilled My purpose
 - c. Matthew 25:25 - “See, you have what is yours.”
 - (1) Commendable? Didn't waste, squander, abuse
 - (2) Wicked: I gave it for a PURPOSE!
 - 2. What is God's purpose? 1 Tim 2:1-4; 2 Pet 3:9 - ALL saved
- C. Principle #3: Being a Giver Is Being Active
 - 1. Matthew 25:16-18 - Immediately active vs. Selfish
 - a. Be ready: Matt 24:42,44; 25:10 – Actively serving
 - b. Common theme - A long time coming (don't worry - do your thing, live your life...) = One-talent man
 - 2. Don't put off doing good
 - a. It takes TRUST to be a river (will I dry up?)
 - b. Matthew 6:33 - seek first His kingdom = TRUST
- D. Principle #4: We Will Reap What We Sow
 - 1. Matthew 25:19-30 - Came to settle accounts (reaping)
 - 2. Luke 6:34-38: You be a giver, Trust in God, He will give
 - 3. What is your standard of giving?

III. Conclusion

- A. Are you a river or a reservoir?
- B. 2 Corinth 8:9 - He gave for me... what am I giving?