

ANY GIVEN SUNDAY WEEK 3: INVESTMENT

DAY 1: READ MATTHEW 25:14-30

How does this passage challenge your current attitude toward your spiritual walk with Christ? In terms of your finances, resources and specialties, how are you investing them for the Kingdom of Christ? When reading this passage, did any particular areas of your life jump out at you. How can you more aggressively or sacrificially use these things for the cause of Christ? Practically, what would it take to start doing so?

DAY 2: READ MATTHEW 25:24-25

This servant's misuse of his master's resources is predicated in a deep misunderstanding of who his master is. In the context of the parable, his misunderstanding perpetuated itself in laziness and bad stewardship. Take some time to ask yourself if your hesitancy to use your resources, time and energy for the Gospel is because of a misperception or fear of who God is or how He expects us to use these things.

DAY 3: READ MATTHEW 20:1-16

Today is a great reminder of who God is to all of us. He has called us all into the great work of Christ. Whether we have much or little, are lifelong Christians or newborn believers, He has chosen to be generous with all of us. How does this make you feel about investing yourself for the cause of Christ? Explain.

DAY 4: READ HEBREWS 13

What does this passage say about the relationship between sacrifice and praise? What does this suggest about the importance of worship and generosity in regard to pleasing God? Starting today, let's make it a daily habit to consistently worship God with our mouths and glorify Him with our generous investment in the things that please Him. Take time today to consciously do both. Repeat.

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DAY 5: READ LUKE 12:13-21

Tough question: How much of our behavior, especially in regard to the use of our resources, is based on our big picture plans for things like retirement, new home(s), vacation plans, lifestyle, etc.? When we decide to give sacrificially for the cause of Christ, are we first considering how much we can hold onto in order to still accomplish our personal, physical goals? If we are investing our resources for the Kingdom, in what areas are we still being stingy and selfish instead of, as verse 21 says, being “rich toward God?” What can we do to change that?

DAY 6: READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

Time for some encouragement! The Christians in Macedonia were severely afflicted and poor, yet their sacrificial generosity was abundant and a testament to both Jesus’ grace and their eager obedience. What does Paul say about burdens, need and generosity here? If more (all!) Christians shared the same attitude toward sacrificial generosity, what would the body of Christ look like in the world today? What would it look like to the lost?

DAY 7: READ MATTHEW 25:31-46

Jesus describes an awesome – and terrifying – scene here. Having spent the past week learning about what it means to sacrificially invest our resources for the Kingdom, how does this passage affect your personal perspective on giving? This passage is no metaphor; when we are gathered before God as He sits on His throne, we’re going to have to give account for lives. In the context of this passage, which side would you find yourself on today? Even if it’s not entirely one way or the other, rather than let this passage discourage or scare us, be reminded today that we have an immediate opportunity to sacrifice our goals, time, money and energy for the sake of sharing the love of Jesus with others. Pray for the Lord to open your eyes, ears and heart to the least and the lost around you. Be willing to act when He does.