

God's Blessings & Your Response



Worshipping Our Lord Together

We invite you to reflect on the words from Proverbs as we come to draw close to our Lord Jesus...

*"Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce."*
Proverbs 3:9

*Rich people may think they are wise,
but a poor person with discernment can see right through them.
When the godly succeed, everyone is glad.
When the wicked take charge, people go into hiding.*
Proverbs 28:11-12

Worship Service Songs

Again & Again
House of the Lord
Praise to the Lord the Almighty
Tremble
Better is One Day

"Generosity is actually a mechanism for getting closer to God, and it brings joy, and it brings freedom, and it opens up a whole new avenue to purpose in life... We had come into a study of God and money to ask, 'How much so we really need to give?, but God flipped our perspective to, 'How much do we need to keep?'" Cortines & Baumer

Study Resources

1. God and Money: How We Discovered True Riches at Harvard Business School
2. True Riches: What Jesus Really Said About Money and Your Heart
Both by John Cortines & Gregory Baumer

Reflective Reading: Luke 16:1-14

Jesus told this story to his disciples:

"There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer's money. ² So the employer called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.'

³ "The manager thought to himself, 'Now what? My boss has fired me. I don't have the strength to dig ditches, and I'm too proud to beg. ⁴ Ah, I know how to ensure that I'll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.'



⁵ "So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe him?' ⁶ The man replied, 'I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.' So the manager told him, 'Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.' ⁷ "And how much do you owe my employer?' he asked the next man. 'I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,' was the reply. 'Here,' the manager said, 'take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.'

⁸ "The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. ⁹ Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.

- ¹⁰ "If you are faithful in little things,
you will be faithful in large ones.
But if you are dishonest in little things,
you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.**
- ¹¹ And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth,
who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?**
- ¹² And if you are not faithful with other people's things,
why should you be trusted with things of your own?**

**¹³ "No one can serve two masters.
For you will hate one and love the other;
you will be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."**

- ¹⁴ The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God."

Our Response: In what ways does God want us to be “shrewd” in the resources he blesses us with?

*Learn to be shrewd, you who are inexperienced;
develop common sense, you who are foolish...
The wisdom of the shrewd person is to discern his way,
but the stupidity of fools deceive them
(they will believe anything & everything!)*

Proverbs 8:5 (CSB); 14:8,15 (CSB,NET)

“Shrewd” meaning =

*“I am sending you (the disciples) out like sheep among wolves.
Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”
Matthew 10:16 (NIV)*

We are challenged in Romans 12:1-2...
*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,
but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
Then you will learn to know God's will for you,
which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

A transformed life is demonstrated by...

1 ...how shrewdly we handle _____

2 ... how _____ we are in our actions.

3 ... how _____ we are with our money.

4 ... how _____ we are to God.

Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

In what ways is the statement on our U.S. currency, “In God We Trust” being lived out in your life?

... In your actions towards others?

... In how you are generous with your money?

... In how you use your time?

Today even ardent separationists seem to agree with retired Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, who wrote in 1983 that slogans such as ‘In God We Trust’ have ‘lost any true religious significance.’”

What conversations are you having with others about your trust in Jesus?

Where are you finding opposition to living out the conviction of this phrase?

PRAYER FOR OUR NEWDAY STAFF & LEADERS

Want to be included in our prayer chain? Please send a note to: info@newdaycov.org and we will add you to the list!

We have been looking at where God might be leading us as a congregation to meet each week for worship and ministry. We are in conversations with various churches, places, and ministries in our city. Our goal is to find where we might best collaborate to succeed in our mission, vision, and values. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we pursue these conversations over the next few months in preparation for this fall. Thank you!

NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships with God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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(Online giving: <http://www.newdaycov.org/give>)