

Message Notes

Living with an Open Hand

Scripture Passages

(taken from the English Standard Version)

Introduction – Why is it so hard to be generous?

Luke 12:13-34

Today's Message
Living with an Open Hand
Stewardship, not ownership

1. Scripture is clear:

God is the only owner

a. Creation - Genesis 2:5-9, 15

b. Abraham - Genesis 12:1-7

c. The Sabbath Rest - Exodus 20:8-11;
Leviticus 25:1-24

d. Jesus' Proclamation - Luke 4:16-21

e. The Church - 1 Peter 4:7-11

f. New Creation - Revelation 4:11

2. How do we actually live this way?

Luke 12:13-34

a. Renouncing ownership

b. Trusting in a generous God

Gospel Application – "How is God calling you to be rich towards him and live with an open hand?"

- Time:

- Talents:

- Treasure:

- Ticker (heart):

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!

29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. 30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

**THE
REDEEMED
LIFE
SET FREE**

**THE
REDEEMED
LIFE
SET FREE**

**GENEROUS
LIVING**

A few disclaimers:

Hope does not want your money

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Hope does not want your money

Generosity encompasses all of life

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This begins and ends with the gospel

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This begins and ends with the gospel

This will hurt...

The Foundation for Generous Living:

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God is the only owner in the universe

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God is the only owner in the universe

We are no more than stewards

God owns it – we steward it

1. Creation (Genesis 2:8-9, 15)

8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

God owns it – we steward it

2. Abraham (Genesis 12:1-7)

1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

God owns it – we steward it

3. The Sabbath Rest (Exodus 20:8-11)

8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

God owns it – we steward it

3. The Sabbath Rest (Leviticus 25:1-24)

1 The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the LORD. 3 For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, 4 but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the LORD. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. 5 You shall not reap what grows of itself in your harvest, or gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land.

God owns it – we steward it

3. The Sabbath Rest (Leviticus 25:1-24)

6 The Sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you, 7 and for your cattle and for the wild animals that are in your land: all its yield shall be for food.

8 “You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. 9 Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land.

God owns it – we steward it

3. The Sabbath Rest (Leviticus 25:1-24)

10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. 11 That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. 12 For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.

God owns it – we steward it

3. The Sabbath Rest (Leviticus 25:1-24)

18 Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them, and then you will dwell in the land securely. 19 The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely. 20 And if you say, 'What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?' 21 I will command my blessing on you in the sixth year, so that it will produce a crop sufficient for three years. 22 When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating some of the old crop; you shall eat the old until the ninth year, when its crop arrives.

God owns it – we steward it

3. The Sabbath Rest (Leviticus 25:1-24)

23 The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.

24 And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land.

The Rhythm of Sabbath

**A Sabbath for every seven days
(1 week)**

**A Sabbath for every seven years
(1 week of years)**

**A Sabbath for every 49 years
(1 week of year-weeks)**

God owns it – we steward it

4. Jesus' Proclamation (Luke 4:16-21)

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

God owns it – we steward it

4. Jesus' Proclamation (Luke 4:16-21)

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

God owns it – we steward it

5. The Church (1 Peter 4:7-11)

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

God owns it – we steward it

6. New Creation (Revelation 4:11)

11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

The Problem:

“It’s mine!”

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The Question: “How do we do this?”



Jesus' Answer

Luke 12:13-15

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Jesus' Answer

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Renouncing ownership

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God is the only rightful owner

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When we try to fill the role of owner,
we fail miserably

Jesus' Answer

Luke 12:22-28

22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?"

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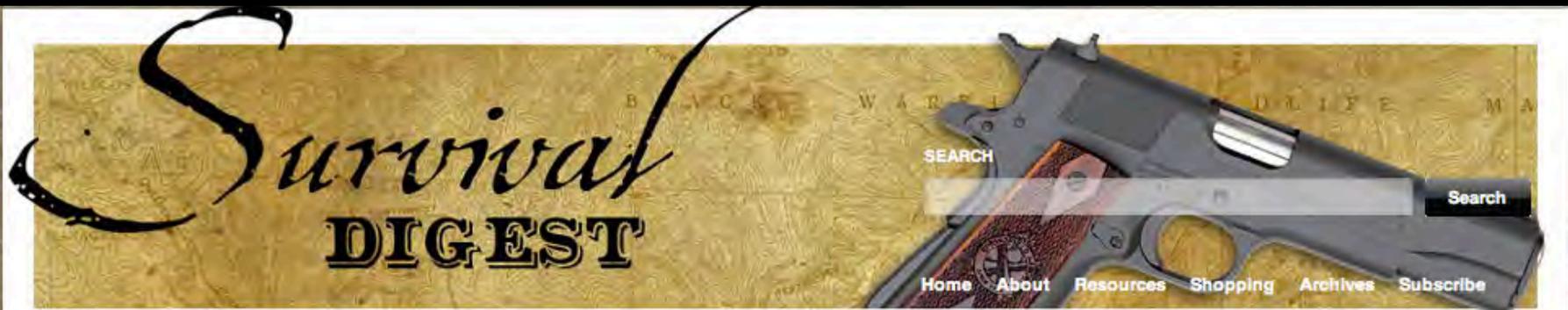
Jesus' Answer

Luke 12:29-34

29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. 30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. 32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Trusting in a generous God

Trusting in a generous God



FOOD

Stockpile Your Food!

By [The Bruce](#) · April 24, 2008 · [Post a comment](#)

Today on the Drudge Report I found an article from the [Wall Street Journal](#) that talked about stockpiling food. Now, I don't wanna go all Mormon on ya'll, but stockpiling food, learning to hunt/fish/garden, and learning to prepare survival meals are very important. The Mormons pride themselves on having at least one year of food stockpiled for each one of their family members. Now for regular "joe



schmoes" like me (who are genetically predisposed to procrastination) it can sometimes be daunting to even keep my pantry full of a months worth of food.

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GENERAL

Trusting in a generous God

Freedom of stewardship

Trusting in a generous God

Freedom of stewardship

So it may be said of our outward prosperity that for as much as God giveth us such great encouragement, we can willingly delight with others in things which are good. But we must find that our hearty embracing of the doctrine of God and love of it and labouring after a good conscience to find joy in Christ's redeeming us is that which maketh our lives joyful, for this cannot by any malice of man nor devil be taken from us.

- Richard Rogers

Trusting in a generous God

Responsibility of stewardship

Trusting in a generous God

Responsibility of stewardship

They which have riches are to consider, that God is not only the sovereign Lord, but the Lord of their riches, and that they themselves are but the stewards of God, to employ and dispense them, according to his will. Yea further, that they are to give an account unto him, both for the having and using of those riches, which they have and use.

- William Perkins

Application:

How is God calling you to be rich towards him and live with an open hand?

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How is God calling you to be rich towards him and live with an open hand?

How will you steward your:
- time

Application:

How is God calling you to be rich towards him and live with an open hand?

How will you steward your:

- time
- talents

Application:

How is God calling you to be rich towards him and live with an open hand?

How will you steward your:

- time
- talents
- treasure

Application:

How is God calling you to be rich towards him and live with an open hand?

How will you steward your:

- time
- talents
- treasure
- ticker (heart)