

GOD'S BEEN GOOD TO US - *PUT HIM FIRST*

Luke 12:13-21

- ***In what ways has the Lord been good to me in my life?***
- **God should be the #1 priority in the life of every Christian because He has saved us, freed us, provided for us and helped us in many ways.**
- Jesus - *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* (Matthew 6:33 ESV)
- **In our upcoming season of spending (Black Friday, Christmas, etc) we need to prioritize our commitment to putting God first in our lives.**
- **How we live and spend our money reveals the priorities of our heart.**
- Jesus - *"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."* (Luke 12:34)
- **Every spending decision is a spiritual decision.**
- **Money, in and of itself, is not evil.**
- *"For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows."* (1 Timothy 6:10)
- **The rich man in Jesus' parable wasn't condemned because he was rich' but because he wasn't rich in his relationship with God. (Luke 12:20-21)**
- **There is nothing more important than our relationship with the Lord.**
- ***What will it take to put God first in our lives?***

Putting God First In Our Lives Requires:

GUARDING AGAINST GREED IN OUR HEART

- Jesus - *"Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed."* (Luke 12:15)
- **Greed is defined as intense and selfish desire for something, especially wealth, power, or food.**

- **If your family income is $10,000 a year, you are wealthier than 84 percent of the world; if it's $50,000 or more a year, you make more than 99 percent of the world.**
- **Many people get upset in church when we talk about money because they're more focused on acquiring wealth and possessions than they are on helping others.**
- *"So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world."* (Colossians 3:5)
- "God promised to meet all of our needs, not all of our greeds." - Unknown
- **There is nothing wrong with having money and possessions as long as our money and possessions don't have us.**
- Jesus - *"Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops."* (Luke 12:16)

Putting God First In Our Lives Requires:

RESISTING THE DECEPTION OF POSSESSIONS

- Jesus - *"Life is not measured by how much you own."* (Luke 12:15)
- **Too many people have bought into the lie that money and possessions equal success and happiness.**
- *"But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction."* (1 Timothy 6:9)
- **Possessions can never make us permanently happy and they will always leave us wanting more.**
- *"Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!"* (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
- **When we put our trust in money we are no longer trusting in God.**
- *"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment."* (1 Timothy 6:17)

Putting God First In Our Lives Requires:

VALUING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

- Jesus - *"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."* (Luke 12:21)
- **We should value our relationship with the Lord over everything else.**
- Paul - *"Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ."* (Philippians 3:8)

- **We should value the Lord over everything because of His love for us.**
- *"But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."* (Romans 5:8)
- **Christians are not only given abundant life on earth, but a guarantee of eternal life in heaven.**
- *"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever."* (Psalm 16:11)

- **The more passionate our faith is, the more consistent our giving will be.**
- Jesus - *"You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."* (Mark 12:30)
- **We demonstrate our love for the Lord by: 1) worshiping regularly with other Christians (Hebrews 10:25), 2) meeting with Christians for accountability and spiritual growth (Acts 2:42-47), 3) serving the Lord in our Church and communities (Romans 12:11, 1 Peter 4:10), 4) Giving generously to advance God's work (2 Corinthians 9:7-8), and 5) Sharing the Gospel with nonbelievers. (Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-17).**
- *"Let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions."* (1 John 3:18)
- **The Lord always takes care of His children when He is first in their lives (Philippians 4:19).**
- Jesus - *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:33)
- "If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead." - William Law
- ***What steps do I need to put the Lord and His Kingdom first in my life?***