

Sermon Notes

High Stakes Faith

November 18th – November 19th, 2023

- **High Stakes Faith**
- Jesus calls us into a new life with Him, to leave the old ways, be born again, and live for Him.
 - o “Follow me.” **Matthew 4:18-22**
 - Then we receive the great promises of eternal life and life to the full now!
- What does it mean to follow Jesus today? It’s different than it was 2000 years ago.
 - o What I can tell you is this, it’s about going all in. **Matthew 17:24-25**
 - o Some people get this, some people don’t. Some go too far(?), some hold back.
 - o But, it’s about releasing yourself to God...submitting your life to Christ...and trusting God to give you something better in return. (Principle of releasing to God and receiving from God.)
 - Compartment syndrome and submitting your afterlife to Christ...
- Laying your financial life at the feet of Jesus.
 - o It’s about submitting your financial life to Christ too!
- Before we go any further: how we give at Good Hope. As the Spirit directs, 10% to missions, KI, tithes first then offerings...
 - o This isn’t simply following some giving rules, but its wholistic and of the heart.
 - o It starts with the heart. **Matthew 6:19-24**
 - You cannot serve two masters...so quit trying!
 - I heard a preacher say one time, “Money makes a great servant but an evil master!”
 - o You can have lots of money...but put it in its place!
 - If you resent God because of money pressures, you are missing something.
 - o You may have it backwards – trying to get God to do what you want...
 - Have an eternal perspective.
 - The Paradigm: All that I am is from God. I honor God by returning some to Him.
 - Treasures in Heaven are way more valuable and secure! **Hebrews 10:34**
- Three things I want you to feel as you submit your financial life to Christ.
 - o 1) Free. There is a yoke to take off. **Matthew 11:28-30**
 - Free from financial oppression of many forms. Pressure, judgement, identity, value, guilt for success, etc.
 - o 2) Valued. In Christ independent of money. Applies both to the rich and poor.
 - Get that lens out from between you and God!!
 - o 3) Grateful. For everything you have. **1 Timothy 6:6** is actually possible. What a joy!!
- What does this look like day to day??
 - o 1) Actually submit your financial life to Christ in prayer. Say the words. Open your heart.
 - That includes partnering with the Gospel financially. Actually makes a big difference! Just like submitting the rest of your life to Christ means partnering with the Gospel in those ways.
 - Just take today’s step today, don’t feel pressure. Give as the Spirit directs!!
 - o 2) Pray over your financial life regularly. Pray for guidance over your purchases, investments, work, giving, etc.
 - o 3) Live a financially responsible life. Free from the covetousness, pride, resentment, and naivety that lead to living an unwise and potentially destructive financial life.
 - So, you live within your means and pay all your bills. You give rather than take.
- If money has controlled you. Your self-worth. Your view of others. If you have given up things more valuable than money for money, then today is your day to get free.
 - o **Matthew 6:24**
 - o Let’s pray, put money in its place, and honor the Lord who sets us free!