



A Blessed Life

Focus God desires for us to live a blessed life—a life that is marked by extreme stewardship, extravagant giving and extraordinary sacrifice.

Open If you had one extra hour a day, how would you use it?

Read God desires for us to live a blessed life. A “blessed life” does not mean the kind of financial gain as is represented in the hyper-prosperity movement, but a life that is marked by the favor and blessing of God spiritually, relationally, emotionally, financially and physically.

Those who live the blessed life, live lives of extreme stewardship, extravagant generosity and extraordinary sacrifice, just as Jesus modeled for us. We must understand that everything we have comes from God, and it is up to us to steward it (including developing our talents into skills). Like Jesus, we’re to be generous in heart through our finances, extending grace and mercy to others. But God asks us first and foremost to give to Him that which we deem the most valuable: our souls.

- Talk**
1. Read Matthew 25:14–30 and Matthew 26:6–16. These passages talk about stewardship and giving. What stands out to you the most about each passage? What principle do you think Jesus was trying to convey to His followers in each one?
 2. The two “legs” of the blessed life are stewardship and generosity. God *cannot* bless a poor steward or a selfish person. Why not?

3. *"We are born with talent. Skill is how well we develop it."* ~ Pastor Robert Morris. Have you ever thought about talent and skill in this way, especially relating to good stewardship? How does this change your perspective of stewardship (if at all)?
4. Would you say that you live frugally and give generously? Why or why not? What changes would you like to make to the way you manage your finances (if any)?

Live

The Parable of the Talents tells us it is possible to have a skewed perspective of God that leads us to believe He is harsh. This religious view of God may lead us to hold back that which is most valuable to Him: our souls. Have you felt this way? Do you tend to withhold from serving or drawing near to God? If you do, would you like to change that today? Ask someone to pray with you as you ask God to change your perspective of Him and give yourself fully to Him and His service.

Pray

Thank God for His goodness—that He desires to know you well and bless you in every way. If you recognize that you have not been behaving with good stewardship or generosity *or* if you have withheld your soul from Him, repent and invite His forgiveness. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you towards a blessed life of surrender to God.