

This Is Love

Lay Down Your Advantages (Week 4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

This is love, laying down our advantages corporately and personally as investments in Christ's Kingdom and His purposes.

Key Scriptures

He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, 'Invest this for me while I am gone.'" Luke 19:12-13 NLT

After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. Luke 19:15 NLT

But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, 'Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn't yours and harvesting crops you didn't plant.' 'You wicked servant!' The king roared. 'Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I'm a hard man who takes what isn't mine and harvests crops I didn't plant, why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.' Luke 19:20-23 NLT

'Yes,' the king replied, 'and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.' Luke 19:26 NLT

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Philippians 3:4-8a ESV

How to begin laying down our advantages:

1. Take an inventory.
2. Ask God how to use it for His Kingdom.
3. Do the thing!

Start talking.

- How can advantages of resources, time, position, and money sometimes lead to "mission drift"?
- Why is it easier to become a reservoir of blessings rather than a channel?
- What are the impacts of sitting on the advantages we are given?

Start thinking.

- Read Luke 19:12-13, 15. What does the nobleman expect to happen with the gifts he bestows?
- Read Luke 19:20-23. Why did the third servant hide the money? Was his fear true? What does his fear reveal about his relationship and understanding of the king? What so enraged the king?
- Read Luke 19:26. Why is this the king's response? Is it fair? How would such a response be viewed in our current cultural climate?
- Read Philippians 3:4-8a. Of the advantages Paul lists, how many are simply the result of his birth?
- What only value do they have from Paul's perspective?

Start sharing.

- Why is it easy to overlook the advantages and gifts we have as a result of place we live?
- How do we as a church avoid the mistake of sitting on a reservoir rather than continually channeling our advantages into to the needs around us?
- How do you avoid that same mistake personally?

Start doing.

- Put into practice this week the three steps.
 - o Take an inventory of your advantages – write them down
 - o Ask God how to use them for His Kingdom.
 - o Commit to doing what God reveals.

Closing prayer.

We praise you Lord Jesus! You are love. You have modeled it, defined it and embodied it. You laid your life down for us, that we might in turn lay our lives down for others. Help us as a church and as individuals to remain channels of your blessings and gifts; all for your Kingdom and your purposes. Give us the courage to lay down all you have given in service to others.