DARE TO BE A DISCIPLE ~ November 1, 2009

"Stewarding Your Gifts"

Luke 19:11-27

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:

A WORD FROM SETH...

This week, we continue our study of discipleship using the gospel of Luke and UPC's Nine Marks of a Transformed Life. The Nine Marks describe a mature disciple as someone who:

1. Enjoys God in worship
2. Engages in God's Word (the Bible) through study & prayer
3. Lives by God's promises
4. Applies the gospel of grace in relationships
5. Invests time & energy in a small group of friends
6. Fulfills his/her church membership vows
7. Exercises his/her gifts & passions in all of life
8. Practices Biblical principles of financial stewardship
9. Shares his/her faith in word and deed

This week's study focuses on mark #7. Pull out your Bible and let's think some more about how we can exercise our gifts and passions in all of life.

KNOWING GOD

a) Read Luke 19:11-27. What does this passage reveal about what we are to do with our gifts that Jesus has given to us?

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b) What rewards did the first two servants receive (vss. 16-17, 19)? What are your thoughts about rewards in heaven?

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c) What was the third servant fearful of? How do we know he was a nonbeliever (vss. 20-23)?

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d) What are your thoughts about the last judgment? What does it mean to you that "God will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ?"

GROWING TOGETHER

a) What do you learn about the importance of stewarding your gifts from this passage?

b) There were people who disagreed & hated Jesus (vss. 7, 14, 25)? How do non-Christians in our culture view Jesus today?

c) People don't serve because they are either fearful of failure, of taking a risk, or of commitment. Describe a time in your life when you experienced this.

SERVING OTHERS

a) What should be our motivation to serve? "A grace life leads to a graced death." What does this mean, and how should we apply it to our lives?

b) What is something that you are excited about that has recently happened to you or someone you know? Why should we be even more excited to share Christ with others?

c) What are your gifts? How can they be used to serve UPC & our community?