

# Sermon Outline

## *Faithful in Possessions*

Psalm 37:3-5; Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-33

Faithfulness is the fruit of Biblical, living and vibrant faith, both exemplified for us by the preaching and practice of the ancient Church. They were faithful in their teaching and learning, faithful in prayer, faithful in fellowship and unity, and faithful in their possessions.

### I. *Three Reasons We Need This Teaching*

- A. Primary Reason: This is God's Word. We must teach and believe the whole counsel of God – Matthew 6:33
- B. A Pastoral Reason: This is God's Family. The number one cause of bad decisions in life and the number one cause of difficulties in marriage is a wrong relationship to possessions and money – Matthew 6:25
- C. A Passionate Reason: This is God's Kingdom. We are ruled by Christ and called to spread the knowledge of his loving reign to all. Do our hearts show this passion? – Matthew 6:21

### II. *Two Attitudes God Seeks*

#### A. The Attitude of Trust (2 Key Questions)

- 1. *Do I trust God?* – Psalm 37:3,5; Acts 2:44
  - Many do not trust God.
  - Yet God is:
    - perfectly Good
    - perfectly Faithful
    - perfectly Wise
  - So in all seasons and all things I can trust in the Lord God – Job 13:15
- 2. *Does God trust Me?* – Psalm 37:4; Acts 2:45
  - Delighting in the Lord or delighting in appearances – Acts 5:1 ff

*“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. A rich man's wealth is his strong city and like a high wall in his imagination.” - Proverbs 18:10-11*

- The **Believer** Trusts in the God of all Provision.
- The **Unbeliever** Trusts in all the Provision of God.

#### B. The Attitude of Stewardship (2 Key Questions) – Acts 2:46; 4:32

- 1. *How Much Belongs to God?*
  - All People: Psalm 24:1
  - All Money: Haggai 2:8
  - All Possessions: James 1:17
  - “You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of the one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship both God and money.” Matthew 6:24 (*The Message*)
- 2. *How Much of “Mine” is God's?*
  - “No one can be my disciple who does not give up all his possessions.” – Luke 14:33
  - This means we are MANAGERS not OWNERS
  - Money is a Poor and False god –
    - Deceiver – Mark 4:19
    - “Money will buy a bed, but not sleep; books, but not brains; food, but not an appetite; a house, but not a home; luxuries, but not culture; amusement, but not happiness; medicine, but not health; religion, but not salvation. It is a passport to everywhere but heaven.” – John Patten
  - Generosity born of Grace is the Fruit of the Living God
    - Loving and Giving: John 3:16
    - *You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.*

### **III. *One Sane Response***

Because of the prodigious love of God given to me in Christ Jesus, because God created me for his glory and purchased me body and soul with the blood of Christ, because I am rescued and redeemed, because God is the Lord of all things – for from him and through him and to him are all things – I yield to him today all my false claims of ownership and ask him to make of me a trustworthy, faithful, and generous steward of all the riches he entrusts to me. Jesus is Lord not only of my heart, but of my body, my time, my family and home, my talents, and treasures, my past and my potential. All is his, and I am glad!