

appnotes

DAY 1 READ DEUTERONOMY 8:1-20

1

When do you pray more? When things are going well or when things feel out of control? Have you noticed that it doesn't seem as urgent to pray when all the bills are paid and the bank account is full? When things are good, we tend to forget God. God knows that's how we work. Before God walked the nation of Israel into the promised land, He warned them so that they wouldn't walk away from Him. Here's the deal: we need God when we know it and when we don't. So, when the blessings come, choose to seek His face more than His blessings. You do that by giving every blessing back in praise to the One who gave it to you. Can you thank God for something good every hour today? Set an alert to remind you and try it!

DAY 2 READ ACTS 4:32-36

2

"Mine!" The toddler shouts. It can be as hard to share at 32 as it is at 2. We can try to hide it, but the truth is, sometimes the stuff we own, owns us. But the early church practiced radical generosity because they understood that it's not "mine." They knew that they were part of something larger—a community. They had been blessed to be a blessing. It's only a start to give occasionally or when it's easy. Those are baby steps toward generosity. But notice what happened, "From time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need." That's giving sacrificially. Do you only give when it's easy?

DAY 3 READ ACTS 5:1-10

3

Have you ever lied about your age, weight, or accomplishments around a group of people to make yourself look better? A couple in the Bible lied about how much money they gave. They sold a piece of property for the perceived purpose of giving all the proceeds to the church. But they sold it for more than what they gave. There were some serious consequences. Not for giving less, but for lying. Giving should never be about what others will think. We aren't told what to give, but how to give. Money can be a blessing, and when we give, it should be with joy at serving our Savior. Do you give hoping that people will see you, or do you give hoping they will see God?

DAY READ LUKE 12:13-21

4

Have you ever noticed that as we grow older, our dreams can shift from “being someone” to “having something?” We start out wanting to be a fireman or a writer or a Jedi. But eventually, we dream of having a certain house, boat, or vacation. I don’t know why that is... maybe because we find out there are no job openings for “Jedi.” Is it possible that, our dreams change because we have swallowed the myth that more stuff makes us more fulfilled? And so we try to get more stuff. Chasing that lie leads to heartache, not happiness. As Jesus said, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” When you make getting more your mission, you miss out on true life. Wealth is a tool that cannot satisfy your soul. Still not sure? Try giving something away today and see if it doesn’t bring you joy.

DAY READ LUKE 16:19-31

5

Being rich isn’t bad. But it does come with a warning. Jesus, the master storyteller, spins a yarn with a major twist. There is a rich man who enjoyed his very rich life. There was a downtrodden beggar who suffered much. The rich man ignored the poor man’s suffering. They both die and on the other side the rich man becomes the beggar, and the beggar becomes rich. Being rich wasn’t the problem. And being poor is not something we should try to be! Eternity brings everything into focus. Jesus’ point was to be rich in this life, but to be without Christ, is poverty of the greatest kind. As Jesus said, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” Consider your own heart because forever is a long time to spend somewhere.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

facebook.com/parkerhill.org