

SERMON TITLE: "HALLELUJAH, LET THE CHURCH SING!"

Following Jesus affects how we manage our time, talents, and treasures—our stewardship sings the song of our faith. This week, as we continue through our series, Storytime with Jesus, we look at two parables Matthew 25:14-30; and Luke 16:1-13 to see what God is speaking through them.

INTRO

Would you say thank you to our dancers. "Hallelujah, Let the Church Sing!"

What a beautiful reminder that worship is beyond words. Praise in motion. It is also not limited to what we sing, rather everything we offer to God.

Psalm 149:1 encourages believers to "Sing to the Lord a new song; let the assembly of the godly praise him." Did you know the word "Hallelujah" itself is a Hebrew term meaning "Praise the Lord."

Reminds me of a joke Hallelujah Horse ... Amen

But seriously, what if today we were to consider what is it that we, the church, are singing not just in our music but in everything we say and do. Would others see that we are praising the Lord in it or are we praising other things?

Now, I'll admit something personal. There have been seasons in my life when I sang "Hallelujah" with my lips, but my schedule, spending, and stress levels were shouting something very different. Have you ever been there? Saying one thing on Sunday, but your Monday-through-Saturday life sings a different tune?

That tension—that disconnect—is where today's message lives. We're going to talk about the song our lives are singing.

Let's be honest:

We're all singing something with our lives—through our time, our talents, and our treasure.

But if someone looked at the way we spend our days...

...the way we use our abilities...

...the way we handle our money...

Would they hear “Hallelujah”?

Or would they hear us singing the praises of success, comfort, or control?

It’s easy to treat Sunday like the stage and the rest of the week like rehearsal—but church, the world is listening every day.

Jesus had something to share about that. Today we continue through our series, Story Time with Jesus we consider the parables found in Matthew 25:14-30; and Luke 16:1-13. Where yes, we are discussing praising Jesus through our lives.

Let’s look at two stories (parables) Jesus told in the Gospels:

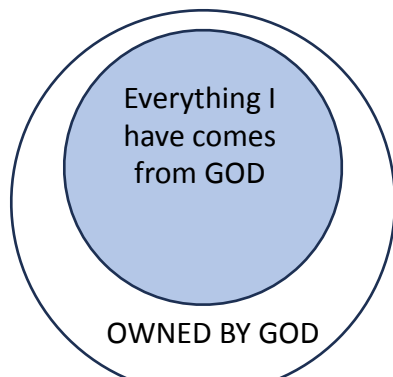
- **Matthew 25:14–30 — The Parable of the Talents**

Jesus tells of a master who entrusts his servants with resources—talents. Not everyone gets the same amount, but everyone is expected to steward what they’re given faithfully.

The ones who multiplied their gifts were called “good and faithful.” They “knew” their master.

But the one who buried his? Did not know his Master and perhaps moved out of fear and mistrust. He was called wicked—not because he lost it, but because he didn’t trust the master enough to use it.

- Like the servants, we all have resources entrusted to us time, talent, and material wealth.
- How do we use them? How about if you consider this Venn Diagram?



NOW, consider how shall we live?

- **Luke 16:1–13 — The Parable of the Unjust Steward (servant)**

A verse to disciples and possibly Pharisees. In this parable both the master and servant are wicked so the focus is not on living out the actions but rather, the principle of the parable. Here, a dishonest manager is confronted about his wastefulness. Realizing he will be fired, the servant hurriedly meets with his master’s debtors and cuts their debt significantly

(because they were excessive (padded)) so that he can make friends and possibly have a place to go once he is terminated.

The message Be a good steward rather than an unrighteous steward (the servant who was willing to use someone else's resources for their own comfort versus being a righteous steward.)

And surprisingly, his master commends his shrewdness—not his dishonesty —because he understood that time was short and acted decisively. But Jesus notes not just the servant's unjust actions but also makes commentary about the Pharisees – You can't buy your way into Heaven.

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. – Luke 16:13 (NIV)

He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight. – Luke 16:15 (NIV)

What do these parables tell us?

Everything we have—our time, our talent, and our tithe—belongs to God.

We don't own it. We're stewards of it.

God doesn't ask us to be perfect—but He does ask us to be faithful.

And the way we steward what we've been given?

It's not just practical—it's spiritual.

It's not just about money—it's about trust. It's our priorities.

Your stewardship is your song of praise.

So what about you?

What is your life singing right now?

Let's reflect:

- How are you managing your time? Are you using it for Kingdom purposes or just filling it with noise?
- What are you doing with your talents? Are you investing them for God's glory or playing it safe? (Worship folks?) Church needs U!

- illustration – DCAT

- Where is your treasure going? Does your giving reflect trust in God or security in self?

This isn't about guilt.

It's an invitation and opportunity to surrender.

Humility says, "It's not mine."

Faith says, "I'll use it for His purposes, His glory, Him ("periodt" – mic drop)."

Jesus is inviting you today to sing a new song—not just with your mouth but with your life.

Imagine what it would look like if we—this church—lived this way.

Imagine a community where our calendars, our abilities, and our resources were all aligned to one chorus:

Hallelujah (Praise the Lord) Let the church sing!

A church like that would shake the neighborhood.

A church like that would reflect the Kingdom of God on earth.

So let's be that kind of church.

Let's not just sing Hallelujah—let's live it.

Closing Prayer

Lord,

You've given us so much—more than we often realize.

Help us to see that our time, our talents, and our treasure are not ours—they are Yours. Help us to surrender to you that which is yours.

Teach us to steward what You've given us faithfully.

May our lives echo praise not just in song, but in every action.

Let the church sing—loud, clear, and true.

In Your Son's JESUS matchless name,

Amen.

—

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What did the Lord speak to you today?
2. What does “Hallelujah” look like in your daily life?
 - Can you think of a time when your actions sang “Praise the Lord” without saying a word?
3. In what ways might our lives be singing something other than “Hallelujah”?
 - Are there areas where you’re unintentionally praising comfort, success, or control?
4. What’s the most difficult resource for you to surrender to God: time, talent, or treasure? Why?
 - What fears or habits make it hard to trust God in that area?
5. Read Matthew 25:14–30.
 - What stands out to you in how the master treats each servant?
 - Why do you think the servant who buried his talent was rebuked so harshly?
6. Read Luke 16:1–13.
 - What does it mean to be “shrewd” in the Kingdom of God?
 - How can we wisely use our worldly resources for eternal purposes?
7. How do these parables shift your understanding of stewardship?
 - What does it teach you about God’s expectations—and His grace?
8. Where in your life do you feel God is inviting you to steward more faithfully?
 - What’s one practical change you could make this week in that area?
9. How can you use your talents—gifts, skills, passions—for the good of the Kingdom?
 - Are there opportunities in your church or community where you’re holding back?
10. What might “singing Hallelujah with your time” look like this month?
 - Could it be in serving, mentoring, resting intentionally, or spending more time with God?
11. What would it look like if our group/church fully embraced Kingdom stewardship?
 - How would our community be different?
12. What can we do together to model faithfulness in our use of time, talent,

and treasure?

— Are there ministries or missions we could support more intentionally?

13. How can we encourage one another in this journey of stewardship?

— What habits or accountability could we build to help each other grow?

CAUTION: Be careful who you align with and help each other because when one goes he/she doesn't go alone. Example of Lucifer fell many fell and took many with him.