

WEALTH & POSSESSIONS



Wk 5

Sunday 28 May 2023

Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Spotlight
- Confession & Assurance
- Bible Reading:
1 Chron 29:12-16
(p. 427) & Luke
16:1-14 (p. 1048)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number:
00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Welcome to St Stephen's. Great to have you with us! We think being at church is the best decision anyone can make today. We hope you find a warm welcome and get a taste of the joy it is to be part of God's family. We would love to hear from you - could you take a moment to fill in the QR Code and let us know how you found church.



Today is the final week in our Wealth & Possession Series. If you missed the previous instalments, visit our website and find them in our Podcasts section. The Bible radically reshapes a Christian's attitude and actions with money. It's been a challenging and refreshing few weeks thinking about the good things God has given us to use.

Ultimately our attitude to wealth is shaped by Jesus who gave up his riches for us - such is his love.

Next Steps

Are you new? Come join us at [Newish Morning Tea](#) today after the 9:45am Service for a short intro to church life and a delicious morning tea

Are you a regular? Join us at the [Belonging Course](#) next Sunday at 12 noon for lunch and find your place at the heart of our church community

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have gone our own way,
and rejected your will for our lives.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,
and to please you in every way;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen

Sermon Notes

Invest Eternally | 1 Chronicles 29:12-16 & Luke 16:1-14

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Act Shrewdly

The key principle

Word

Church

Applying it to your giving

2. Avoid Dishonesty

The true owner

The false idol

3. Treasure Eternity

A better dwelling

A better welcome

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. How has your attitude to money been challenged over this series? Take the opportunity to be honest.

Read Luke 16:1-14

Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

- A. What is the key figure's job? What is he accused of?
- B. How does he respond to this predicament? What does it achieve?
- C. How does the master respond?
- D. What is Jesus's great point?
- E. What warning does Jesus give about money?

2. From what we know of the Bible, what does it look like to gain eternal friends? How is this achieved?

3. How can our wealth and possessions be used for this?

4. Work through the following table and discuss the principle of giving included in them. What are they? Which is a challenge to you?

Passage	Principle
Matt 6:1-4	
1 Cor 16:2	
2 Cor 8:2-3	
2 Cor 9:7	

5. Read these passages as a group:

Rev 7:9-12, Psalm 16:11, Rev 21:3, Isaiah 65:17, 2 Cor 5:1-5, Isaiah 25:6-9, Phil 3:20-21, 1 Cor 2:9, Rev 22:1-5.

6. Spend time in prayer:

- Ask God to refresh your vision of heaven and reorient your heart.
- Ask him to use your wealth to win many for our King.



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your GaP Group leader and consider the following questions:

- i. What opportunities do you see for our church family to bring the life saving news of the gospel to the 1000s of people who are lost and far from God?
- ii. How can your giving facilitate the saving work of gospel ministry – where do you feel called to invest?

Read the Bible with us!

1. Meditate on the passage by reading it over and over
2. What warms your heart? What is God offering you?
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to light your heart on fire for God and his people

Monday - [Rev 7:9-12](#)
 Tuesday - [Isaiah 25:6-9](#)
 Wednesday - [Phil 3:20-21](#)
 Thursday - [2 Cor 5:1-5](#)
 Friday - [Rev 22:1-5](#)

Notices

Conversations About Hope



We packed out the upstairs room of Willoughby Hotel at our Conversations about Hope on Wednesday 17 May. The panellists spoke interestingly and winsomely about the topic of hope from their personal experiences and areas of research/expertise. Most importantly, they expanded on the solid and eternal hope that Jesus alone can offer—“a joyful expectation of the future, based on true events in the past, that changes everything about my present.”

We had around 20 guests attend, and many said the pub was a great setting and the topic relevant. We hope to run a similar event in the future.

Hope Explored Course

When we read the Gospel accounts of Jesus, we see that many of the people Jesus met took a long time to discover who Jesus really was and what He came to do, before coming to faith in Him. This is true not just of them but for many of us too—we need the time and space to explore, ask, reflect and discover who Jesus is and the hope He offers us.



This is why we are running the Hope Explored course. This course is running for the next two Wednesday nights at Willoughby Hotel, 7-9pm. Each night, there is time to eat/drink and connect with others, watch a short video explaining the hope offered in the story and person of Jesus, and a chance to ask questions and see what the Bible says about Jesus and the hope He offers. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Square One Camp

Square One is a weekend camp for those in year 3-6. We join with kids from other churches all over Sydney to learn from the Bible, sing and make unforgettable memories! It's a chance for our kids to have a camp experience alongside leaders they know while being part of something bigger. This year we are taking 6 kids on camp from 2-4 June to look at the theme 'Transformed by Grace'.



Prayer points

- Leaders (Pippie Krebs and Ken Lee) for wisdom and energy
- Kids might encounter Jesus, grow in their understanding of grace
- Kids would develop deeper friendships with each other
- Everyone would have a lots of fun- especially kids for which this will be their first time away from home

Newish Morning Tea

If you consider yourself new to St Stephen's then we want to welcome you. We run Newish Morning Teas every month to help people get their bearings, meet staff and other new people and take a step further into church life. Our next Newish Morning Tea is on today straight after the 9:45am service.

Belonging Course

Our Belonging course is the gateway into the deeper life of St Stephen's. It runs for 3hrs from 12 noon on Sunday 4 June and includes lunch, afternoon tea, a great time with others from the church, time with the staff and helpful info and discussion to bring you into the heart of our great church family. If you want to grow spiritually, encourage, and grow others, embrace the direction of our church, and feel more comfortable belonging to St Stephen's then this is worth setting aside the time.



We all want to belong to great communities. To do so you need to put in the time and effort to know and be known by them. Belonging Course is the first key step in seeing that happen at St Stephen's. If you haven't done it yet register by speaking to Jill Chilton or visiting our website – st-stephens.com.au/belonging

What's Coming Up

29 May	Prayer Meeting: Mondays 1pm on Zoom
31 May	Hope Explored Course - Week 2
2-4 June	Square 1 Camp
3 June	Prayer Meeting: Saturdays 8:30am in Chapel Hall
3 June	Gospel Outreach Conference
4 June	Belonging Course
7 June	Hope Explored Course - Week 3

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