

life groups' sermon guide

The Treasure Principle

God Owns Everything



Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for spiritual growth, caring for one another, and reaching out to others.

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. (Jim Elliott - missionary and martyr)

Introduction

Manute Bol died on June 19, 2010. He was 7'7" tall and 225 pounds, the tallest and skinniest player in the NBA over his career. He is the only player in NBA history with more career blocked shots (2086) than points (1599).

Bol was a Christian Sudanese immigrant who believed his life was a gift from God to be used in the service of others. "God guided me to America and gave me a good job. But he also gave me a heart so I would look back."

Most of Bol's NBA fortune (about \$6 million) was given to help Sudanese refugees. After his death, one twitter feed read, "Most NBA cats go broke on cars, jewelry & groupies. Manute Bol went broke building hospitals."

When his wealth was gone, Bol raised more money by becoming a sideshow entertainment act—boxing (against William "the Refrigerator" Perry), riding a horse or appearing on skates. Bol chose to be a clown and accepted ridicule to raise money for suffering strangers in his home Sudan. He was a fool for Christ.

Ultimately, his work in the Sudan led to his death. While doing relief work there, he contracted a painful skin disease that contributed to his death at the age of 47.

Q: Manute Bol stood out among his fellow players in a league marked by extreme material consumption and marital infidelity. How can our giving shine a light in dark places? Give specific examples.

Q: How do we balance (or reconcile) "letting our light shine before others" (Matt 5:16) with the admonition in Matt 6:2-4 "not to let the left hand know what the right hand is doing" with respect to giving to the poor?

Q: Manute Bol demonstrated humility, selflessness, and a radical love for Christ and his people. How can we demonstrate such radical love that the world would think us to be fools? (Read 1 Cor 4:9-13) Are you willing to do so?

Q: How has God guided you and what has He given you that you can use in the service of others?

Bible Study

Read Matt 24:14-29

This parable is often used to depict how we used our God-given abilities and opportunities. Although they may be a useful application, this story is literally and EXPLICITLY about money and possessions.

Q: What is the reason given for the unequal distribution of wealth entrusted to the stewards by the master? (vs 15) How does this apply to us?

Q: How long did it take the first two servants to begin using the wealth entrusted them? (vs 16-17)

Q: What reasons does the third servant give for his actions? (vs 24-25)

Q: The third steward is described in terms such as “lazy” and “wicked”, yet he returned 100% of the money entrusted to him. (vs 25) How can we be found to be “good and faithful” by being obedient to the tithe (returning 10%) and other Biblical principles of giving?

Q: Give a specific way we can **multiply** the resources given us to benefit God’s kingdom.

Discussion and Application

Stewardship is not just about money. It involves faithfully managing everything that God has placed in your charge for the furtherance of his kingdom here on Earth. Giving is the natural action of a generous heart that desires to express the love of God within it.

Why give?

1. Because we love people. (John 3:16)
2. To preach the gospel (Rom 10:14-15)
3. It is a biblical principle for our benefit (2 Cor 9:6)
4. To break free from the wrong master (Matt 6:24)

Q: What other benefits and reasons for giving can you name?

Q: How do you make decisions regarding giving? (How much? To whom to give? When to give?)

Q: Describe how you have been changed by giving (1) as the giver and (2) when you were the recipient? Share the specifics of the experience(s).

Q: What specific gifts does your Life Group (or family) have that can be used in a project that you can do together? Pray for opportunities.