

Why has America been blessed?

Before getting started with this discussion guide, watch the corresponding video. You can use the link or QR code at the bottom of this page.

Discuss

- ✘ The video asserts that God has richly blessed America so that American Christians can give back to the work of His Kingdom. Do you believe that this is true?
- ✘ It is true that America's founders (and many of its people to this day), followed biblical principles that led to prosperity. Read Deuteronomy 8:11-20. Who is the ultimate source of prosperity? What is the consequence of forgetting that fact?
- ✘ Why would God allow some of His followers to have wealth much greater than others, rather than distributing it evenly, or based on need, faith, and work ethic?
- ✘ Read Luke 12:33-34. Why does He tell us to give to charity? Is the end result a loss or a gain for us?
- ✘ How should a Christian determine the amount that they give away?

Four Servants

Read Luke 12:42-48. In this passage, Jesus describes four types of servants:

The faithful steward who acts according to his master's will (v.42-44)

The ignorant servant who does wrong without knowing his master's will (v.48)

The idle servant who knows his master's will but does not do it (v.47)

The abusive servant who exploits his position for selfish gain (v.45-46)

In this parable, the magnitude of the reward or punishment depends on two things:

Accountability - a servant who has more knowledge and resources is held to a higher standard.

Performance - a servant is expected to do good *and* to avoid evil.

How much accountability does the church in America have based on our wealth, resources, and access to spiritual knowledge?

How is the church in America performing when it comes to carrying out the Master's will?

Personal Application

This video and discussion guide may feel convicting, but the purpose is not to condemn. The point is that we all need to do a regular self-evaluation to make sure we are living in accord with our Master's will. Now is the time to make course corrections – personally, if needed, and on a larger scale as congregations and ultimately as a nation.

Be careful not to judge yourself based on religious traditions or comparisons with other believers. Always evaluate yourself based on the Bible (and on the other side of that coin, make sure you know the Bible well enough to evaluate yourself).

Finally, if you see a need for change in your own life or in your community, take action immediately. Start giving, start serving, and encourage others to do the same.

Extended Reading: Luke 12:15-48



Watch the Video

Scan this QR code to view the video online, or go to:
<http://youtu.be/QoN9-Qnpmfg>

