

Media Notes

Instead of Word of Witness video, we will have All Saints Day Recognition. There will be a reading of names and lighting of candles. Please display the names on screen as they are read.

During the sermon, there are several images, as well as text will be on screen during the sermon today. Please take a few minutes to review the sermon and presentation to be ready for worship.



Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about the danger of having a divided heart and the opportunity to have a unified heart serving one master.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because it is easy for our hearts to be divided

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the second week of our annual stewardship campaign

What are the next action steps?

The next steps are to reflect on giving for 2014 and as you prepare your 2015 commitment, talk to God seeking to answer the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give in the year ahead?"

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news we do not need to have divided hearts. God's grace enables us to follow Christ with all our heart and life.

Metadata

1. Topic(s)
 1. stewardship, generosity
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
 1. Matthew
3. Series
 1. Treasure
4. Speaker
 1. Andrew Conard
5. Tags

All Saints Sunday / 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Treasure - The Problem with Two Masters
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1rJJ9f8>

November 2, 2014
Matthew 6:24
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,560
Video is not available online

1. treasure, finances, stewardship, generosity

Matthew 6:24, CEB

Response to Scripture

Introduction **5**

Sermon Starter Video

Series Review

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

Opening **6**

Prayer

Election Day

Go Vote!

Divisive Political Ads

Politics Illustrates Scripture

House Divided

Transition

A Reminder about Heart Investment **7**

Budget or Calendar

Amazon Purchases

Serving One Master **8**

Two Is Too Many

Our Hearts Are Hurting

Unite a Divided Heart

Transition

Vision for 2015 **9**

Changing Lives

Our Discipleship Pathway

Discipleship Pathway as Ministry Blueprint

Neighborhood Food Drive

Developing Leaders

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Invite, Connect, Equip and Sustain
Sharing Christ
Balanced Budget
Good News
Call to Action
Invitation - Jesus Has to Be Lord
Closing Prayer

Matthew 6:24, CEB

24 No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Start Sermon Timer

Series Review

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Often we think that our treasure will follow our hearts, but Jesus suggested something different. He said that where our treasure goes—our time, money, and energy—our hearts will follow. During this worship series we are exploring Matthew 6 and Jesus' teachings on money, giving, worry, and more.

We will conclude this series on November 16 when we will celebrate our 145th Birthday as a congregation and make our annual giving commitments to financially support God's work through this church in the year ahead. This is a tangible way for us to direct our treasure in God's direction and to shape our hearts as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Opening

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Election Day

Go Vote!

Election Day 2014 is coming up soon. Just two days from now, on Tuesday. I know some of you have already voted early at the courthouse, so that day has already come and gone for you. I believe that as Christians we have a responsibility to vote in our city, state and national elections. This is one of the ways that we live out part of the Great Commandment to love God and love our neighbor.

It doesn't matter who you are planning to vote for:

Orman, Roberts or Batson

Brownback, Davis or Umbehr (Um-burr)

Kobach or Schodorf

Whoever you want to vote for, make sure and take the time to vote.

Divisive Political Ads

No matter where you find yourself on the political spectrum or how much or little you pay attention to politics, it has been difficult to escape political advertising. Is anyone ready for the election to be over so we can stop looking and listening to these ads? You can feel the division between the parties and points of view.

The way ads go, if you vote for one person you will help create a perfect life for yourself, your community and there will be rainbows and unicorns all day, every day. If you vote for their opponent, the end times will be on us, society will unravel at the seams and we will all get our own personal rain cloud, just like in comic strips.

Politics Illustrates Scripture

We know these things are just not true. However the political season has been an illustration of Jesus' words in the scripture passage for today. With a little adaptation for the political season:

No one can serve two [political candidates]. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

House Divided

You know it is not just in politics, perhaps you have seen this license plate:

[Show image on screen]

.....
No one can serve two football teams. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
.....



This phrase often reminds people of Abraham Lincoln's famous speech in 1858. Lincoln was speaking about a nation divided on the issue of slavery. What many people don't know is that the line was not unique to Lincoln but that instead Lincoln was quoting Jesus. Jesus said, "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."¹

Transition

Jesus is telling us, in other words, that competing allegiances in a kingdom, a house, or a heart will lead to destruction. Division leads to war in which either there is constant strife or one side wins out.

A Reminder about Heart Investment

Last week we were challenged to consider where we are investing our hearts. If we look at where we spend our time, money, and energy, we will see where our hearts are invested.

Budget or Calendar

One easy way to check this investment is to look at our budget or our calendar. In doing so, most of us would find that our hearts indeed are divided. We have said yes to too many commitments, signed too many contracts, and swiped too many credit cards. Now we must work to pay off a bunch of stuff that doesn't make us happy.

¹ Mark 3:24-25, CEB.

Amazon Purchases

I tend to get caught with purchases from amazon.com. It is so easy to buy online and have it delivered right to our front door. Anything you want - * poof * there it is, a few days later. We even have a preference between the UPS and FedEx delivery drivers as one knows not to ring the doorbell during naptime for our children.

I have to pay attention to what I purchase. There have been times when I don't think about what I am buying or how quickly it is adding up. When a box shows up every day, I know I've gone too far. My heart has become more invested in stuff.

Serving One Master

Two Is Too Many

Jesus says in Matthew 6 that no one can serve two masters. A person trying to do so will inevitably like one master and hate the other, be too devoted to one master and despise the other.

Jesus says that we can't serve both God and money.

As we examine our lives, we may see that we have many more than two masters calling for hearts!

Our Hearts Are Hurting

When we are serving two, three, or ten masters and are dividing our hearts among them, we are not living as God intends us to. I think this may explain why we resent or even hate the things that pull us away from our intended treasure. We end up hating our job or our boss, because they have become an unintended master in our lives.

Does this mean you can't make money? No!

Does this mean you can't have a healthy relationship with money? No!

It does mean that you can't serve God and money.

They can't both be your master.

You can't live under the lordship of God and the lordship of money; you must choose.

Unite a Divided Heart

On November 16, we will celebrate our 145th birthday as a church and you will have the opportunity to make your annual giving commitment. This is one tool for you to make sure that you are not trying to serve money and God. You can offer your financial resources to follow in God's direction. It can make a difference in your life and it will make a difference in the life of our church.

Transition

Last week, we celebrated the way that your annual giving commitment has made a difference in this year. Today, I want to share with you some of what might be possible through your financial support in 2015.

Vision for 2015

In 2015, we have the opportunity to expand the impact of our vision to be part of God's work changing lives, developing leaders and sharing Christ.

Changing Lives

In the first part of our vision, we focus on being part of God's work changing lives - both our own as we experience God's grace, as well as others to whom we offer Christ.

Our Discipleship Pathway

Last month, we introduced our discipleship pathway to answer the question: What is a disciple?

A disciple is a person who follows Jesus by engaging in spiritual practices to worship, grow, give, serve and share. A person engaging in these practices will grow toward perfect love of God and neighbor.

The follow up question is "How do I grow as a disciple?" You can grow as a disciple by adding a practice, taking a next step or growing deeper.

Discipleship Pathway as Ministry Blueprint

As we look to 2015, we have the opportunity to clarify the use of our discipleship pathway as a blueprint for ministry. With your support, we will be able to:

- Expand the opportunities for people to grow in their faith outside of worship, especially for those that are regularly involved in serving on Sunday morning.
- Develop opportunities to serve outside the walls of our church and engage participants from the church and community.

Neighborhood Food Drive

One example of ways that we can expand our ministry beyond the walls of the congregation is our neighborhood food drive. Yesterday, we invited our neighbors to be part of our food drive in November.

The team at FaithWork delivered over 350 plastic bags to the neighborhood surrounding the church with an insert inviting people to put food in a bag and leave it on

their front porch to be picked up by FirstKids Serve on Wednesday.

[Show image on screen]

You can bring the food drive to your neighborhood, as well. We have packs of five bags and inserts available for you by the metal collections bin. Fill out the insert with your name, a day and time range when you will be by to pick up the food and your phone number in case anyone has questions. Then bring the food in to our metal collections bin.

Your annual giving commitment will help us expand our efforts to bless our neighbors and create opportunities for you to serve God by serving others beyond the walls of our congregation.

Developing Leaders

Invite, Connect, Equip and Sustain

The second part of our vision is developing leaders for the church and community. Your annual giving commitment will help us expand our efforts to invite, connect, equip and sustain leaders and volunteers in the life of the church. We have plans to help both long time volunteers take a next step and for people who are new to the congregation or new to serving to be able to easily step into new roles.

Sharing Christ

We exist as a church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To accomplish our mission, we have to be living the third part of our vision - sharing Christ.

Balanced Budget

One of the tools that we have to accomplish this is our financial resources. We have the opportunity in 2015 to balance our budget. This will be a catalyst for our ministries and it will help us be on firm financial footing as we consider the possibility of a capital campaign for building and renovation. Our Facilities Planning team has been at work exploring our current building and considering possibilities for the future. You will hear more at our church conference next Sunday.

Give Thanks • Give Food • Give Hope

Urgently Needed Items

- Canned Chicken or Tuna
- Canned Chunky or Progresso soup
- Canned Fruit

No expired, dented, or glass items please.

"Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor."
Proverbs 22:9

www.firstumceldorado.org

First United Methodist Church Neighborhood Food Drive

My name is _____ and my church is collecting non-perishable food to feed people in our community. If you'd like to participate:

- Purchase items at the grocery store or donate them from your pantry.
(Urgently needed items are listed to the left)
- Place the plastic bag with food items on your front porch before the pick-up date below.
- I will collect your items on _____
- If I miss picking up your bag or if you have any questions, please call me at _____

Good News

The good news we do not need to have divided hearts. God's grace enables us to follow Christ with all our heart and life. #FirstUMCEIDorado

Call to Action

This week I invite you to check your heart and see where it may be divided. If you have financially supported the church with your tithes and offerings in 2014, you will be receiving your current giving statement and a letter celebrating what has happened because of your generosity.

When you receive the letter this week, I invite you to reflect on your giving in 2014 and prepare for making your commitment for 2015. Be intentional about giving in proportion to your income. As you prepare your commitment, talk to God seeking to answer the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give in the year ahead?" On November 16, we will present our 2015 annual giving commitments to support God's work through this church on November 16

Invitation - Jesus Has to Be Lord

God doesn't want shared allegiance. God doesn't want a piece of your life. God wants to be everything to you. If you make Jesus Lord and Master, the other allegiances will find their proper place. You still will have to work and be committed to other people. But you will not have a heart or house or life that's divided. You will be standing on firm ground.

Closing Prayer

O God, you call us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We confess that we find ourselves with divided hearts. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to follow you with all of our hearts. Unify our life in your direction. Help us direct our treasure so that our heart will follow in your direction. In Jesus' name, Amen.

8:30 AM		11:00 AM
Sermon Time		