

## Media Notes - Worship

There will be a Veteran's Day Recognition which includes a silent video - "A Veteran's Day Prayer" accompanied by "Danny Boy" on flute. After the introduction, play the video which will automatically transition into a placeholder slide until the song is complete. When the song concludes, we will transition into the pastoral prayer.



## Media Notes - Sermon

There will be a sermon starter video.

During the sermon, there will be a photo to be shown near the beginning and text near the end when talking about commitment logistics.

## Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

### ***What is this sermon about?***

This sermon is about the opportunity to be part of something bigger than ourselves through our annual giving commitment.

### ***Why is this sermon important?***

It is important because it connects our annual giving commitment with the opportunity to be part of what God is doing that is "far beyond all that we could ask or imagine"<sup>1</sup> and find joy and meaning knowing that we played a role.

### ***What is the context of this sermon?***

This sermon is the third in our annual stewardship campaign. Next Sunday Bishop Jones is preaching and we will present our annual giving commitment cards in worship.

### ***What are the next action steps?***

The next action step is to make a generous annual giving commitment to support God's work through this church in 2015.

### ***What is the good news (bottom line)?***

The good news is that it is possible to "stop collecting treasures ... on earth [and] collect treasures ... in heaven."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 3:20, CEB.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 6:19-20, CEB.

**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
  1. treasure, bigger, vision, mission, commitment, annual, giving, giving commitment,

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## Matthew 6:1-6, CEB

1 “Be careful that you don’t practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2 “Whenever you give to the poor, don’t blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. 3 But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing 4 so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

5 “When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. 6 But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

## Response to Scripture

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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## Introduction

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

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\*\*\* Start Sermon Timer \*\*\*  
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## Series Review

Today, we continue our series, Treasure, in which we are considering Jesus’ words, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” We have been taking a closer look at some of Jesus’ teachings on money and giving.

We will conclude this series on November 16 by celebrating our 145th Birthday as a congregation and making our annual giving commitments to God’s work through this church in 2015. 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.

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## 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.

### Something Bigger

There are times in your life when you get the chance to be part of something bigger than yourself. Your name may not be mentioned, and you may not hoist the trophy on the stage; but as the confetti falls, you will know that you played a role. It won't matter that you are not getting the glory; you get to know that you were a part of it.

### ***Kansas City Royals Baseball Season***

I felt that way as the Kansas City Royals were making their way through the postseason to the World Series. Our family went to one Royals game this year. Here is a picture of us outside Kauffman Stadium on August 31.

[Show image]

It was a sold-out Sunday night game against the Cleveland Indians that was on Sunday Night Baseball on ESPN. We had standing room only tickets and roamed around the stadium for most of the game. It was suspended in the 10th inning for rain and the Indians ended up winning on September 22. We didn't make it that far, heading back to our hotel after the seventh inning stretch.

As a fan, I had a very small role in one particular game in August. Yet we were able to be a part of it. Even simply listening to the games on the radio or as



someone who lives in Kansas we were part of it and it felt good. It is a powerful thing to know that we can be part of something bigger than ourselves.

### ***Your Giving Enables Our Mission and Vision***

In a much more significant way than a baseball season, we have the opportunity to be part of something bigger than ourselves when we make an annual giving commitment to the church. Your commitment make it possible for our church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. You play a tangible role in God's work changing lives, developing leaders and sharing Christ in our church, community and beyond. Your giving has a real impact in the lives of people - both today, in the months ahead and for generations to come.

### ***Transition***

In the scripture passage today, we hear more about Jesus' way to give.

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## **Jesus' Way to Give**

### **This Is Not a Performance**

Jesus warns that when you are living your faith, be sure that you don't make it a performance. Jesus says, that when we engage in spiritual practices to worship, grow, give, serve and share don't do them so that other people will notice or to put on a good show. The truth is that, "God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart."<sup>3</sup>

### **Warning to Be Careful**

Jesus gives us a warning to literally "be careful"<sup>4</sup> about the way that we practice our faith. Most of the time, we use that phrase because we think there's a good chance that someone could get hurt.

### ***Warning Example***

You know what it is like to see a warning sign. Several weeks ago, Nicole and I started T25 video workouts at home. Each morning, before we start sweating, the DVD gives us warnings. The first warning is to not copy the DVD, that it is only for home use.

Then you get the exercise warning. It sounds pretty dire.

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<sup>3</sup> 1 Samuel 16:7, CEB.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 6:1, CEB.

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*This warning is not to be discounted. The user assumes all risks of injury in the use of this program. ... [The company] offers many fitness alternatives if you are prone to or have a history of injuries, or are not ready for an extreme physically demanding workout—but FOCUS T25 is not one of them. Accordingly, [the company] will not be liable to any person or entity for any damage or loss caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the content contained herein.*

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Yikes! Then we try to make our way through the workout.

### ***Jesus Cares About Our Hearts***

The warning on the video is for our physical body. The warning which Jesus gives is for our soul. Jesus gives this warning because he cares about our hearts. He knows that if we seek credit for the good we do—if our actions become a performance—then our hearts will suffer. We will miss out on the blessing of being and doing good. We miss out on being part of something bigger than ourselves.

### **Spiritual Dimensions of Giving**

Giving is part of our discipleship pathway because where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. Our giving is connected with our spiritual life. If we want to be generous givers and experience life more fully, we have to be people who are engaging in spiritual practices. Then, when we engage in spiritual practices we find ourselves giving in extravagant and sacrificial ways. No one gives in amazing ways just because there is a great need; extravagant, sacrificial givers do so because their hearts have been changed by spending time with God.

### ***Annual Giving Commitment***

When we make an annual giving commitment, it is an opportunity to humbly offer God our financial resources. We can be part of something that is better than anything we can achieve on our own.

### ***Transition***

Next week, we will present our annual giving commitments in worship. I want to be clear about your invitation to make a commitment and answer some of common questions.



## **Commitment Logistics**

### **What are my options for giving?**

#### ***Cash or Check***

Many people choose to give by cash or check. Please make sure and identify yourself on the envelope or check so that we can provide a record for tax purposes. You can place your gift in the weekly worship offering plate or mail them to the church

#### ***Appreciated Stock***

Stocks and securities are a welcome gift. Many people have found the tax savings makes this an ideal way to fulfill your annual giving commitment. You can contact the church office for arranging a gift in this way

#### ***Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)***

One of the best ways to give to the church is with Electronic Funds Transfer. When you give by EFT, you reinforce your commitment to put your treasure where you want your heart to be. One easy step each year guarantees that the church will receive your gifts on a regular basis, even if you are out of town or forget one week.

To establish an electronic funds transfer, you will need to complete a commitment card authorizing the EFT and attach a voided check for the account you will use. If you have used EFT in 2014, we ask that you complete a 2015 annual giving commitment card to authorize the continuation of EFT giving for the year ahead. If your bank account information has changed you will need to submit a voided check with the updated information.

### **What about planned giving?**

Our Endowment funds help support the future needs of our church through planned giving opportunities. If you have already made a planned gift or you would like more information about remembering the church in your will or with a planned gift, check the box on your commitment card and myself or a member of our Endowment team will follow up with you.

### **How much should I give?**

#### ***Biblical Tithe***

The Bible teaches us to give a tithe, which is the first 10% of what we earn.

#### ***Discipleship Pathway - Giving***

This reflected in our discipleship pathway in the spiritual practice of giving.

- Starting Point - Give in Sunday offering, Christmas Eve and Easter Offering
- Next Steps - Make an annual commitment and give in proportion to your income
- Going Deeper - Make an annual commitment and give in proportion to your income at a tithe (10%) and beyond

Where are you in your giving?

What is your next step to grow deeper in your faith?

## How do I calculate a tithe?

You can use gross or net income. I will tell you how Nicole and I make our calculation.

- We each get a paycheck twice a month, so we add them together.
- We multiply that number by 24 to get our annual take-home pay.
- We move the decimal place one place to the left to determine our annual giving commitment.
- We divide this number by 24 because we give by Electronic Funds Transfer.

As United Methodist pastors, our salaries are public information, so I want to share with you what will be on our annual giving commitment card next week. We will be making a commitment of \$304.98 by EFT semi-monthly. This is a total annual giving commitment of \$7,319.45 for God's work through our church in 2015.

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## Conclusion

### Impact of Giving

When direct our treasure in God's direction, our heart follows. This begins with a simple decision to generously return to God a portion of the blessings God has provided to us. The true power will come from God when our treasure is used to accomplish far more than we can even imagine.

Your financial support makes our church's ministry and mission and possible. Worship, programs for children and teens, adult Bible studies and small groups, pastoral care and support, mission trips and community projects are all supported by annual giving that provides the operating funds for our church. Your annual giving commitment make it possible for our church to budget, plan and expand our ministries in the coming year.

### Call to Action - Make an annual giving commitment

I invite you to make a generous annual giving commitment to support God's work through this church in 2015. Consider where your treasure is, the ways that your heart might be divided and how you will give your treasure back to God.

- If you are not giving in proportion to your income, I invite you to start by making an annual giving commitment of 1% of your income for 2015.
- If you are already giving in proportion to your income, I invite you to increase your commitment by 1% for 2015 to move closer to the goal of the 10% tithe.
- If you are already tithing, thank you. I invite you to look for opportunities to continue to expand your generosity.

I have made this invitation to you every year that I have been your pastor.

If you took your first step on the pathway to giving a 10% tithe with your 2013 commitment, this year your commitment would be 3%.

### ***Commitment Card Logistics***

This week all of our members will be receiving in the mail our 2014 Annual Giving Commitment Card and an envelope to present in worship next Sunday. We will also have annual giving commitment cards available in the bulletin next Sunday.

### **Good News**

The good news is that it is possible to “stop collecting treasures ... on earth [and] collect treasures ... in heaven.”<sup>5</sup>

### **Invitation to Respond by Giving Extravagantly and Sacrificially**

If we want to experience life more fully, we must respond to all that God has done for us by seeking to participate in what God is doing in the world.

We have considered how we are investing our lives and the invitation to invest our time, money, and energy in the things of God.

We have the opportunity to be part of things that are so much bigger than what one or two of us can do on our own.

We get to be a part of what God is doing that is “far beyond all that we could ask or imagine”<sup>6</sup> and find joy and meaning knowing that we played a role.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”<sup>7</sup>

Will you pray with me?

### **Closing Prayer**

O God, help us to invest our treasure in what you are doing. Place in our hearts the desire to be a part of things bigger than ourselves and to follow after you all of our days. We offer our hearts, our lives and our treasure to you, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 6:19-20, CEB.

<sup>6</sup> Ephesians 3:20, CEB.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 6:20-21, CEB.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost  
Treasure - Giving Your Treasure Back to God  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1wUzURr>

November 9, 2014  
Matthew 6:1-6  
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,560  
Video is not available online

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sermon Time		