

Quality

FOR GREATER THINGS



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Offering & Tithes

Offering TALK#1

TITLE: Qualify for Greater Things

Scripture Passage: Luke 16:11 (NRSV)



We'll be worshipping God with our giving in just a few minutes. If you haven't yet prepared your gift, feel free to do so now. If you've already given online, thank you for your generous gift.

By a show of hands, how many of you enjoy playing sports? The Summer Olympics are returning in 2016, this time to Brazil.

Many athletes dream of competing in the Olympic Games. Yet every four years during the Summer Games, only an incredibly small percentage get to participate.

Only those who've performed well in the qualifying heats get the opportunity to fulfill the Olympic dream.

The qualifying heats are not the Olympic Games themselves. But if an athlete doesn't do well in them, he or she will never get anywhere near the Olympic Games.

The same is true for us when it comes to what we do with the money God has given us to steward.

In Luke 16:11, Jesus says: "If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?"

According to Jesus, what we do with our worldly wealth, our money, qualifies us to be entrusted with greater things -- true riches.

Not just more money but other more valuable resources like relationships, grace, truth, and opportunities for lasting influence and eternal impact.

Our faithful giving to God qualifies us for greater responsibility from God.

As the ushers come this morning, I invite you to give generously so you may be entrusted with what

Jesus calls, "true riches."

Abbreviated VERSION

TITLE: Qualify for Greater Things
Scripture Passage: Luke 16:11 (NRSV)

We'll be worshipping God with our giving in just a few minutes, but first, I have a question.

By a show of hands, how many of you enjoy playing sports?

Many athletes dream of competing in the Olympic Games.

Yet only those who perform well in the qualifying heats get the opportunity to realize that dream.

In Luke 16:11, Jesus says: "If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?"

Can you see how this serves sort of like our own qualifying heats?

According to Jesus, **our faithful giving to God qualifies us for greater responsibility from God.**

As the ushers come this morning, I invite you to give generously so you may be entrusted with what Jesus calls, "true riches."

TIP:

- The Summer Olympics return in 2016. Watch the news for related items you can connect with this offering talk.
 - If you participated in sports at some point in life, this is an opportunity to build rapport with the congregation and personalize by bringing a memento as an object lesson (trophy, jersey, track shoe, ball, racket, etc).
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Bullet Points

VERSION

TITLE: Qualify for Greater Things

Scripture Passage: Luke 16:11 (NRSV)

- Prepare to worship God with our giving.
- The Summer Olympics are returning in 2016, this time to Brazil.
- The only athletes who get to fulfill the Olympic Dream are those who perform well in the qualifying heats.
- Poor performance in the qualifying races = no participation in the Olympic Games.
- Same is true when it comes to what we do with the money God has given us to steward.
- In Luke 16:11, Jesus says: "If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?"
- What we do with our money qualifies us for greater things.
- True riches are more than money:
 - Relationships
 - Grace
 - Truth
 - Lasting influence
- Our faithful giving to God qualifies us for greater responsibility from God.
- Give generously so you may be entrusted with "true riches."



- Choose a way your local church is choosing to invest in your local community in order to qualify for greater responsibility from God. Demonstrate how you are showing yourselves to be good stewards on his behalf.
- You can connect this illustration with God's global interests by sharing how your church's local giving multiplies through connectional giving with The United Methodist Church:

We celebrate Human Relations Day on the Sunday before the birthday observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

<http://www.umciving.org/ministry-articles/human-relations-day>

One Great Hour of Sharing, observed on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to share God's love with local communities everywhere. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not for administrative costs.

<http://www.umciving.org/ministry-articles/one-great-hour-of-sharing>