

Everything we have, everything we possess . . . is a gift from God
Unlike the rich man in the Gospel, . . . Who is possessed . . . by his possessions,
We are stewards of God's gifts and we need to trust in his invitation
To follow him.

A key to success, is to allow nothing to stand in our way . . .
Allow nothing to stand between us and the love of Jesus
There is a lesson here.

Jesus tells the Rich Man: Sell what you have, give to the poor
and you will have treasure in heaven;
then . . . come, follow me!
He says to us . . . More generically,
Get rid of any obstacle, standing in your way, keeping you from me.
If that is your possessions or your wealth,
Then perhaps you need to take the example in the Gospel more literally.
But whatever it is, be it fear, pride, whatever, **do not** let it be an obstacle.

An example of learning this lesson:

Recession of early 1980's,

widely considered to have been

the most severe recession since [World War II](#)

Inflation almost 14%

Layoffs / unemployment (double digits in teens, up to 25% in some areas)

\$20 until payday: bread, milk and eggs

Church and collection basket

What is the obstacle? What do I need to get rid of?

(money, lack of trust) – Trust in God!

Pondered the message – We are stewards of the gifts of God

Is there anything that stands between you and God?

Do we love God as He deserves? Do we trust Him?

Do we love one another as we should?

Are we guilty of committing acts of kindness and generosity to our neighbor.

Every day – or at least when the opportunity arises?

Like the rich man, we too are called by Jesus "To come, follow me."

If we answer the call, and trust in Him,

Then, . . . like Paul says in Romans 8:38
I am convinced
that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,
neither height nor depth, nor ***anything*** else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
that is . . . in Christ Jesus our Lord.