

# “Faithfulness, Hardship, and the Gifts of God”

## Sermon Series “Stewarding the Gifts of God (Week 2)”

Sermon

Luke 3:15–22

January 13, 2019

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- 1) To be faithful is not necessarily to guarantee yourself an easy life or even a happy ending.
- 2) No hardship in life is a sure sign of God’s rejection. No good fortune in life is a sure sign of God’s favor.

He makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:45)

And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28)

- 3) Jesus and John remind us that to be faithful during hardship is to see a light in the darkness, but even more, it is to be a light in the darkness.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14–16)