



Sermon Outline  
August 14, 2022  
Pastor Bryan Myers  
Avoiding the  
Hamster Wheel of  
Comparison  
Mark 12:41-44

\* **It's good to do a \_\_\_\_\_ stewardship checkup.**

**Gain thinking** – Focuses on what you have, transforming progress into \_\_\_\_\_.

**Gap thinking** – Fixates on what you lack, often converting wants into \_\_\_\_\_.

\* **It's your \_\_\_\_\_ to live in the gap or the gain.**

\* **One of the quickest ways to get in the gap is by \_\_\_\_\_.**

\* **The challenges of comparison:**

**1. There's absolutely no one else \_\_\_\_\_ like you in the world.**

*\* God doesn't compare what He created.*

**2. You will always be able to find someone \_\_\_\_\_ or better off than yourself.**

*\* Comparison can either artificially inflate the ego or automatically increase feelings of inequity and/or inadequacy.*

**Luke 18:11** - The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector."

**1 Corinthians 12:15a** - Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body."

**3. Our comparisons are often based on \_\_\_\_\_ assumptions.**

*\* We see everybody else's highlight reel and then compare it with our behind-the-scenes experiences.*

**4. Comparison thinking can compromise our \_\_\_\_\_ in God.**

**1 Samuel 8:5b** - ...now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.

\* **Comparison almost always puts you in the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Galatians 6:4** - Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else...

*Don't try to be better than anyone else.  
Only try to better yourself.*

\* **Jesus exposed the \_\_\_\_\_ of comparison.**

**Mark 12:43** - Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others."

\* **When it comes to stewardship, comparisons are \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2 Corinthians 8:12** - For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

\* **The time is coming when God will turn our comparisons \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Luke 13:30** - Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.

\* **Important Stewardship Questions:**

1. *How has comparison to others put you in the \_\_\_\_\_?*

2. *Do I always keep in mind that God knows exactly where I stand financially?*

3. *Where do \_\_\_\_\_ need to grow in the area of stewardship?*

**John 21:21-22** - When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? **You must follow me.**"