

MONEY MATTERS – PART 1

STOCKPILE TREASURES IN HEAVEN

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THEME & IDEA OF THE MESSAGE

In this revolutionary teaching about money, Jesus instructs His followers on how to ensure a secured financial future. Jesus makes a clear distinction between what is perishing and what is going to last forever. Furthermore, He communicates that our heart clearly follows and desires to be in the very same location where we have invested our treasure.

Matthew 6:19-24

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

THE PRINCIPLE OF STEWARDSHIP (i.e. MANAGERS)

- The basis of Christ's teaching about money is the fundamental conception of stewardship (Luke 12:42; 16:1-8).
- Not only money, but every gift of God, is received in trust for His use. Man is not an owner, but a trustee; managing another's goods and estates with God being the one original Owner of all.
- The two things required of stewards are that they be faithful and wise. In other words, money is not to be used to gain advantage over others or allow it to overcome us.
- This is a perfectly plain and simple basic principle, yet for the vast majority, God does not even enter their thought process or decision making when it comes to this sensitive subject.
- A good financial steward is to act out of generosity under the law of grace and not be forced out of a sense of obligation or mere duty.

STATISTICS – MONEY AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament provides many references regarding money and wealth. This subject is covered in great detail and teaches the follower of Christ on how to be excellent financial stewards. Consider the following statistics:

- 16 out of 38 of Jesus' parables deal with money and possessions
- Nearly 25% of Jesus' words in the New Testament deal with Biblical stewardship
- 1 out of 10 verses in the Gospels deal with money
- There are more than 2,000 scriptures on tithing, money, and possessions in the Bible, which is twice as many as faith and prayer combined.

MAIN POINTS

1. Earth treasures disappear

- a. Jesus made it painfully clear that money will be lost, corrupted and/or disappear. The security and trust that people place on wealth is futile and will ultimately vanish away, despite all efforts to the contrary.

Matthew 6:19-20

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

- b. **Corrupt** - means to cost to disappear
- c. **Rust** - means eating into or consuming. In Bible times, money was buried in the ground and therefore could become perishable.
 - i. The same word that is used to describe the religious hypocrites - rust consumes therefore it disappears
 - ii. **Moth** means to be eaten (James 5:2)
- d. The Greek name for a **burglar** is τοιχωρύχος (i.e. "wall-digger")
 - i. Compare Job 24:16 - "In the dark they dig through houses."
 - ii. Also, Ezekiel 12:5.

2. Stockpile your treasures in heaven

- a. Jesus provides a remedy to the fact that money will soon vanish and is not trustworthy. He encourages His disciples to invest, stockpile, and to lay up treasures in heaven; safely locked away in Gods vault. These riches will not in any way be compromised or stolen. In fact, the believer will find them there and will have them for eternity.

Matthew 6:20

²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

- b. Do not over value your treasures on earth but rather value the ones that are in heaven
- c. What is implied by laying up treasures in heaven?
 - The blessedness of the eternal presence of Christ
 - Health and well-being that is provided by the covenant of Christ
 - By fleeing from the wrath to come, the Christian is laying up heavenly treasures
 - By endeavouring to secure an interest in Christ
 - By setting their affection on things above
 - By having their conversations there
 - By establishing relationships that will be found in heaven
 - The "four crowns" and rewards described by the Apostle Paul
 - The ability to rule and reign with Christ
 - Access to the patriarchs of the faith.

3. Your heart follows your treasure

- a. The heart of any human being is designed to follow their treasure. In other words, what they deem to be a priority and a necessity. Their passion, energy, focus, and all that they possess will follow after what they pursue to be of the greatest value and worth in their lives. Jesus taught that the heart follows; it aims and pursues for what it has been told and taught is of incredible importance.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“No one ever went to heaven whose heart was not there before.” – unknown

“Your heart will always long to be with your treasure.” – Dr. Tony Soldano

4. Inner purpose reveals light or darkness – vs 23

Matthew 6:22-23

²² "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

- a. The **“EYE”** – speaks of the heart or our intellect - it brings out the idea of the inner purpose or intent of the soul. Consider:
 - i. People are captivated by their eyes
 - ii. People make purchases with their eyes long before they pull out their wallet, *“I have my eye on that”*
 - iii. *“Not everything that captures the attention of our eye deserves the attention of our souls”*. – Pastor Moses Khan
- b. *“Jesus realized that it would be difficult for His followers to see how His unconventional teaching on security for the future could possibly work. So He used an analogy of the human eye to teach a lesson on spiritual sight. He said that the eye is the lamp of the body. It is through the eye that the body receives illumination and can see. If the eye is good, the whole body is flooded with light. But if the eye is bad, then vision is impaired. Instead of light, there is darkness.*

The application is this: The good eye belongs to the person whose motives are pure, who has a single desire for God's interests, and who is willing to accept Christ's teachings literally. His whole life is flooded with light. He believes Jesus' words, he forsakes earthly riches, he lays up treasures in heaven, and he knows that this is the only true security. On the other hand, the bad eye belongs to the person who is trying to live for two worlds. He doesn't want to let go of his earthly treasures, yet he wants treasures in heaven too. The teachings of Jesus seems impractical and impossible to him. He lacks clear guidance since he is full of darkness.

Jesus adds the statement that if therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! In other words, if you know that Christ forbids trusting earthly treasures for security, yet you do it anyway, then the teaching you have failed to obey becomes darkness—a very intense form of spiritual blindness. You cannot see riches in their true perspective”. – The Believers Bible Commentary

5. There is no room for two Gods

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- a. The Bible connects the giving of money and the transfer of wealth with worship – from Genesis to Revelation
- b. Jesus emphatically states that two masters cannot be served or worshipped at the same time.
 - i. Mammon desires to replace God in our lives
 - ii. Mammon is a person – with character, intent and purpose
 - iii. Mammon demands our loyalty
- c. Priority: God first – money second
- d. Luke 16:14-15 – The Pharisees loved their money

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.

THE POWER OF THREE

1. What do you have your eye on?
2. Be honest – What is your treasure?
3. Start stockpiling in heaven today – send material up there.

GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1) Can you identify additional treasure that you can stockpile in heaven?
- 2) Is Jesus teaching that we should not save, make or invest money on earth?
- 3) Define the term mammon. Why is this personalized? Who is mammon?
- 4) How did Jesus connect money and inner purpose? What does this look like in real life?
- 5) Describe the futility of money. How does it disappear?
- 6) How does ownership and stewardship differ? List three differences.
- 7) What other principles does the Bible teach about money? List five.