



Part 40: Jesus and Money

Matthew 6:19-24

God desires for us to experience the life that is truly life as people of love with all your resources.

“The last part of a man to be converted is his wallet.” – John Wesley

“My pocketbook was baptized too.” – Sam Houston

Our Questions with Money

- Is money evil?
- How do we store up for ourselves treasures in heaven?

Our Feelings with Money

- Uncomfortable - because you don't trust institutions or churches with money because of past misuse of money.
- Annoyed - because you already think the church is constantly asking for money.
- Confused - because you don't know what you should do with money.
- Guilty - because you have not used money wisely in your life and you feel the burden of debt.

God's Heart for us with money

- God desires for you to experience the life that is truly life as people of love with all your resources.

“To be clear, we want something for our people (more faith, joy, freedom and purpose) rather than something from our people (more money). We want our people to grow into joyfully generous disciples of Jesus, who wisely manage their time, talent and treasure for the greatest Kingdom impact.” – “A Theology of Generosity” by the GCC Session

Is Money Evil?

- 1 Timothy 6:10: “The Love of money is the root of all evil.”
- All through scripture we see people of means who love God and follow His way: Abraham, David, Solomon, patrons of Jesus ministry (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna), Joseph of Arimathea, and patrons of Paul’s ministry (Phoebe and Junia).
- God does not have anything against people of means or wisely saving our resources. And yet, we cannot minimize the dangers of money. In the west we can so easily want to explain it away or say that it won’t impact us. Money and the false sense of security, identity, and value it creates is the greatest temptation for our culture. It can easily become the greatest idol in our lives, where a good thing has become an ultimate thing.

“Money that is hoarded for oneself rots the soul.” – Timothy Keller

- 2,350 verses about money and possessions and 15% of Jesus’ teaching is on money and possessions.
- Matthew 6:24: Who is Lord of your life? You either pick God or money. Who or what do you love and who are you devoted to?

How do we store up for ourselves treasures in heaven?

- Matthew 6:19-21: “Store up treasures in heaven” is a weird statement as you think about it. It is like we are invited to a lavish wedding feast at the Broadmoor and you bring a bag of Doritos as your contribution. God is our greatest treasure, and in heaven we are welcomed into the fullness of God’s presence of love, hope, and peace. There is nothing that we can add to the treasure that is God.
- Is this speaking of Works Righteousness, that we somehow earn our way into heaven?

“As base a thing as money often is, it yet can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the hungry and clothing for the poor; it can keep a missionary actively winning lost men [and women] to the light of the gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values. Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.” – A.W. Tozer

- It comes down to the heart – Matthew 6:21
- Attention is the beginning of adoration. What is your attention on - your income, investments, retirement savings or on God’s beautiful kingdom? Are we using our resources for God’s beautiful kingdom?

- Matthew 6:22-23: the “eye” is the conduit or window to the inner person, the heart. The eye represents what we focus on. A good eye brings light to the heart as it focuses on the light of heaven. A bad eye, like an “evil eye” enviously covets things.

Practical Questions and Suggestions Towards Generosity

- Is this making me more into a person of love?
- How can my resources be used for God’s beautiful kingdom?
- The Four P’s of Giving (Priority, Percentage, Progressive, Prompted)

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:17 – 19

Resources:

- [“A Theology of Generosity” by Greenwood Community Church Session](#)
- *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn

Sermon Discussion Questions:

1. What questions or feelings come to your mind and heart when the topic of money is brought up?
2. Have you ever been tempted by money? Has money or wealth ever become an idol in your life where a good thing became an ultimate thing?
3. Is there anything you need to do to reorient your loves towards God and His beautiful kingdom?
4. How are you storing up for yourself treasures in heaven?
5. How are you experiencing the “life that is truly life” in generous giving?