

# Series: Ultimate Living

**Message Title:** Ultimate Living Customized (part 2)

**Message & Scripture Highlights:**

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

**3 John 2**

Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as your soul keeps well *and* prospers.

**Matthew 6:19-21**

Do not store up for yourselves [material] treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

<sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal;

<sup>21</sup> for where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.

**Matthew 6:22-23**

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

<sup>23</sup> 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!

Discussion Part 1:

Reading the above passage from Matthew 6 it's important to know that Jesus is talking. Consider the Jewish expression "to have a good eye" which means to have a compassionate, generous heart toward a person or need. Note how interesting it is that Jesus talks about where your treasure is before he describes the condition of your "eye" and whether your body is full of light or darkness. Talk about how Jesus is conveying to a Jewish crowd that their generosity, or lack of generosity, directly affects the internal health of the body. Talk about how Jesus does instruct us to "store up for" ourselves treasure. The question is, how do we do that?

S.Marshall thoughts:

So often we run Jesus' words through a religious filter. It waters down the power and potency of His life-changing thinking. We don't have to be Christians living with great darkness in our hearts, but getting saved is just the beginning of fixing your "eye". We have to act on Jesus' words and it's our choice whether we have a good eye or not.

Have someone read:

**Matthew 25:14-30**

<sup>14</sup> “For it is just like a man who was about to take a journey, and he called his servants together and entrusted them with his possessions.

<sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and then he went on his journey.

<sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he [made a profit and] gained five more.

<sup>17</sup> Likewise the one who had two [made a profit and] gained two more.

<sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup> “Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

<sup>20</sup> And the one who had received the five talents came and brought him five more, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted to me five talents. See, I have [made a profit and] gained five more talents.’

<sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little, I will put you in charge of many things; share in the joy of your master.’

<sup>22</sup> “Also the one who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have [made a profit and] gained two more talents.’

<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little, I will put you in charge of many things; share in the joy of your master.’

<sup>24</sup> “The one who had received one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a harsh and demanding man, reaping [the harvest] where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter seed.

<sup>25</sup> So I was afraid [to lose the talent], and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is your own.’

<sup>26</sup> “But his master answered him, ‘You wicked, lazy servant, you knew that I reap [the harvest] where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter seed.

<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have put my money with the bankers, and at my return I would have received my money back with interest.

<sup>28</sup> So take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

<sup>29</sup> “For to everyone who has [and values his blessings and gifts from God, and has used them wisely], more will be given, and [he will be richly supplied so that] he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have [because he has ignored or disregarded his blessings and gifts from God], even what he does have will be taken away.

<sup>30</sup> And throw out the worthless servant into the outer darkness; in that place [of grief and torment] there will be weeping [over sorrow and pain] and grinding of teeth [over distress and anger].

**Discussion Part 2:**

What a GREAT story Jesus tells us here. Talk about what you learn from this story. Which of the three servants are you? Can you help each other go to another level?

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

Here is just a quick summary of what I hear when I read this Jesus' story:

- 1) All you possess is God's
- 2) We all don't get the same thing
- 3) You are assigned to profit
- 4) Faithfulness is rewarded
- 5) God watches how you handle a little
- 6) Ultimate Living is sharing in the joy of the Lord
- 7) The unfaithful & unprofitable are full of excuses
- 8) A disregard for sowing & reaping is dangerous

**Life Application:**

What has God given you. Always start with inventory first. Then be very thankful. Even if all you have is a problem that can be converted into an opportunity. Take stock, be thankful, consider how you can invest, give, consult with a mentor, and take action. This week put into practice these simple steps. Talk about it and pray for one another.

**Now Pray The Word:**

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

*“Our Father Who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name, give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses. Forgive us for not stewarding the precious supply you have entrusted to us. You keep Your eye on us, and on the little we have the privilege of stewarding. Help us to realize we can honor You with even our pennies. We can honor You with the invisible things in our life like our words, our thoughts, and our respect for Your Word. Help us to apply this life-changing instruction and not just let it fall to the ground empty. (Continue to pray specifically for one another's needs ...)*