

Matthew 6:19-21, 25-33

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

CORE

8 Essentials for the Church

Generosity

2/9/2020

Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 6:19-21, 25-33, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

PRINCIPLES AT PLAY

- **FELLOWSHIP** with brothers and sisters in the local church touches the **POCKETBOOK** too!
- Biblical generosity challenges our attitude toward each **OTHER** in the body of Christ, and our attitude toward **WEALTH**.

TWO LIES

1. **Happiness** = **MORE** than I currently **HAVE**.
2. “You **DESERVE** it.”

Our problem with money is not always an income problem, but quite often a **LIFESTYLE** problem, whose real root is a **SPIRITUAL** problem.

REORIENTING MONEY

1. Travel in the **RIGHT DIRECTION**.
2. Break **MONEY’S** back.
3. Live within your **HARVEST**.
4. **DISCIPLINE** your desires and redefine your **NEEDS**.
5. Decrease **SPENDING** increase **SAVINGS**, increase **INCOME**.
6. **FAST**.

THE CORINTHIAN CASE STUDY

- The “law of the **HARVEST**” applies to how we give our money.
- Each person must **DEDICATE FREELY** what to give.
- God gives *so that* we can **BLESS** others.
- A Christian’s generosity points others to **GOD’S** generosity.
- Giving is a form of **WORSHIP** to God.
- God’s extravagant **GRACE** is the only good motivation.
- We are to give **SACRIFICIALLY**.

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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. **What was some of the best financial advice you ever received?**

3. **READ Matthew 6:19-21, 24-33**

What does this passage teach you about yourself? ...About God?

What does it mean to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness?"

4. **Now read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.**

What is the relationship between godliness and contentment? How do these two things feed off of each other?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Take a look at the six "prescriptions" listed below for reorienting your relationship with money.

Discuss which of these six most need your attention and why.

1. Travel in the **RIGHT DIRECTION**.
2. Break **MONEY'S** back.
3. Live within your **HARVEST**.
4. **DISCIPLINE** your desires and **REDEFINE** your needs.
5. Decrease **SPENDING**, increase **SAVINGS**, increase **INCOME**.
6. **FAST**.

BRINGING IT HOME

6. **What do you think is one step you need to take in learning how to be generous, like your Heavenly Father is generous?**

7. **In light of the passage, or what you've discussed, what is one way you'd like to take another step in PRAYER?**

Or...

What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do?

PRAY TOGETHER