



RE SYNC

ReSync: Overcoming Materialism

Text: Luke 12: 13-19

Founding Pastor Ken Werlein

1. How have you personally experienced the “quest for more”?
 - a. What do you seem to constantly want more of?
 - b. What has it driven you to do?
 - c. What has it cost you?
2. Pastor Ken warns that greed is insidious; it is often difficult for us to recognize our own greed.
 - a. What makes greed difficult to identify in ourselves?
 - b. What are signs we can look for to discern how we might be struggling with greed?
 - c. If we can't recognize our own greed, what are some ways that we can ensure we are not controlled by our greed?
3. Read the parable in Luke 12:16-20. What was wrong with the rich man's solution to his overabundance of crops? Jesus doesn't warn against producing an abundant harvest, he warns against irresponsible stewardship of your harvest.
 - a. Describe the difference in your own words between being an owner and being a steward.
 - b. If we were to apply this parable to our modern context, what do you think it would look like for us to, “tear down my barns and build bigger ones...to store my surplus”? How do we know if we are responsibly stewarding our resources?
 - c. In what ways in your life do you recognize operating as owner versus operating as steward?
 - d. How would reframing your perspective to that of a steward change the way you operate?
4. Jesus says that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” In other words, what we love determines what we treasure. Fr. Pedro Arrupe says it like this, “What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.” As a group, take some time to honestly ask yourselves these questions. The answers to these questions should give you a pretty good indication of where your treasure is.

- a. What gets you out of bed in the morning?
 - b. What do you do with your evenings?
 - c. How do you spend your weekends?
 - d. What do you read?
 - e. What breaks your heart?
 - f. What amazes you?
 - g. What fills you with joy and gratitude?
5. Read Matthew 6:19-21. Jesus commands us to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven” as a way to combat materialism. What does it look like to store up treasures in heaven? List tangible examples of storing up treasures in heaven. (See Study Deeper)

Challenge: One key to freedom from greed is keeping an eternal perspective. What is one step you can take this week to take something God has given you (money, time, talents, resources, influence, etc.) and invest more of it into eternal, Heavenly things?

Prayer: Dear God, forgive me for all that I've spent on things that aren't going to last. I want to start investing in Heaven. I want to invest in these godly funds. I want to use my money the way you want me to use it. Today I commit to using my money to grow my character and grow in spiritual strength, wisdom, and knowledge and become all that you want me to be. Help me to see ways that I can use what you have given to me to strengthen relationships and show love to my brothers and sisters in Christ. I want to invest in eternity by using my money to serve others. I want to learn to be generous. I want to be a blessing to others. And I want to use my money to bring people to you. I want people to be in Heaven because I gave. I want to spread the Gospel through my acts of service. And Father, I want to show where my treasure is by investing in eternity through my gifts and offerings to you. I want to honor you by giving you the first part of all my income. I want to give up my lust for money so that the Almighty himself will be my treasure. Help me to remember that I'm not a fool to give up what I cannot keep to gain what I cannot lose. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY DEEPER

How Can You Store Up Treasure in Heaven?

BY RICK WARREN

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21 NIV)

You are going to enjoy forever what you invest in Heaven, and you invest in Heaven every time you use money for good.

Yesterday we talked about investing in eternity by using your money to grow your character, encourage fellowship in the Body of Christ, and serve others in need. There are two more funds that you should invest in so that you can yield eternal dividends in Heaven.

The fourth of God’s investment funds is the Global Fund.

This is when you use your money to share the Good News and bring people to Jesus. Luke 16:9 says, “Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings” (NIV). A lot of people have no idea what this verse means. Is it saying that you can buy friends? Not at all. It means that God wants you to invest in things that help get people into Heaven so that when you get to Heaven, they will welcome you there. It’s the greatest investment of your life. Is anybody going to be in Heaven because of you?

The last investment fund is God’s Treasury Fund.

When you give money to God as an act of worship, that’s called the Treasury Fund. God makes a promise in Proverbs 3:9: “Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines” (TLB). A tithe is when you give the first 10 percent of your income to God. Anything given above a tithe is called an offering. You can’t really give God anything, because he already owns it all. But think about the allowance you got as a child. If you went out and bought a birthday present for your mom, you’re really using her money. Does that mean she would like the gift any less? No! Because she cares more about the thought and the love behind the gift. God feels the same way about your giving.

The Bible says that wherever our treasure is, our heart will also be there. If what’s most important to you are the things of this earth, then every day you are moving further and further away from your treasure. Because every day you are here on Earth, you’ve got one less day here on Earth. You’re moving further and further away from the things you’re going to leave behind.

But, if you're investing in God's funds and using your money to serve God's purposes, then you're storing up treasure in Heaven every day. You're getting closer and closer to your treasure instead of further and further away.

Jim Elliot once said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

<http://pastorrick.com/devotional/english/how-can-you-store-up-treasure-in-heaven>