

The Bottom Line

Tell it Where to Go

Matthew 6:19-24

Last week, we began a series on “The Bottom Line” concerning the teaching of Jesus on the topic of money found in his largest and most famous sermon in Matthew 6. We talked about how God’s “bottom line” on money requires us to see it differently (coming from God, belonging to God).

There is an inextricable link between repentance and generous giving:

- **John the Baptist:** while calling for repentance, answered a question:

“And the crowds asked him, ‘What then shall we do?’ And he answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’ Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than you are authorized to do.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Do no extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.” **Luke 3:10-14**

- **Zacchaeus:** A wee little man who repented in a big way.

“And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold. And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house...” **Luke 19:8-9a** // **His repentance was on display in sacrificial giving.**

- **New Christians in Jerusalem:** Immediately after embracing Christ...

“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.” **Acts 2:45**

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” **Matthew 6:19-24**

Main Idea: The Bottom Line Makes Me Invest Differently

Two Things I Must Know about Money in Matthew 6:19-24

I. You Can’t Take It With You

Only Two Options for Earthly Treasures:

- **It Will Be Taken from You**

“Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.” **Proverbs 23:4-5**

- **You Will Be Taken from It**

II. You Can Send It On Ahead

“Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that is increasing to your account.” **Philippians 4:17 (Christian Standard Bible)**

A Step Further: Paul implies that there is an account where everything we sacrificially give to advance the kingdom of God is kept in a ledger in heaven.

“The LORD paid attention & heard them & a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.” **Malachi 3:16b**

You cannot take it with you, but you can send it on ahead through generous and sacrificial giving.

Main Idea: The Bottom Line Makes Me Invest Differently

Conclusion: In Matthew 13, Jesus tells us something about treasure and author Randy Alcorn describes it vividly. (**Read from Treasure Principle**)

“It’s tragic that teaching about giving and practicing generosity among Christians and churches has become a drudgery. The Bible gives us a very different picture of generosity...it’s an absolute joy!” **Randy Alcorn**

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” **Missionary Jim Elliott**

To the Unbeliever: The bottom line is that there are two worlds for which you can live and in which you can invest. If Jesus has risen from the dead, then everything he said is true, and living for eternity makes total sense!

To the Believer: Practical helps for embracing the Bottom Line...

How to Get Started:

- **Priority Giving:** Turn the budget upside down.
- **Percentage Giving:** Tells God you can handle more.
- **Progressive Giving:** Healthy things grow, especially our giving.

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *An Exposition of the New Testament* – J. Gill (1809)
- *The Gospel of Matthew* – William Barclay (1976)
- *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount* – John Stott (1985)
- *Matthew* – S. K. Weber (2000)
- *Matthew* – Craig Bloomberg (1992)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *The Treasure Principle* – Randy Alcorn (2001)
- *How to Be Rich* – Andy Stanley (2013)

