

The Bottom Line

See It Differently

Matthew 6:19-24

“There’s a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money. We may try to divorce our faith and our finances, but God sees them as inseparable.” **Randy Alcorn**

Over the next three weeks, we will look into the words of Jesus and try to discern what, exactly, is the bottom line when it comes to our money.

“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 See Things Differently

Two Things I Must See about My Money in Matthew 6:22-23:

I. See that My Money Comes from God

Misconception: We want to believe we have what we have because we deserve it, and we earned it.

*“Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. **Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’** You shall remember the LORD your God, **for it is he who gives you the power to get wealth**, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”* **Deuteronomy 8:11-18**

Studies show that the richer people get, the smaller the percentage of their giving:

- **Middle Class Families:** Give away 6% of their income to charity.
- **Upper-Middle Class Families:** Give away 4% of their income.
- **Upper Class Families:** Give away 1-3% of their income to charity.

II. See that My Money Belongs to God

Misconception: Believing that what we have ultimately belongs to us. My house, my money, my stuff...however...

“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.”

Psalms 24:1-2

“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts.” **Haggai 2:8**

“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.”

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a

Stewardship: We do not own the things God has entrusted to us. We manage them according to His interests.

“A steward manages assets for the owner’s benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It’s his job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.” **Randy Alcorn**

What About My Needs? Considering it all came from and ultimately belongs to God, what do I do with my own needs, bills and responsibilities?

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

1 Timothy 6:17-19

What is a reasonable amount of God’s money to draw in order to sufficiently (not lavishly or wastefully) provide for the needs of my family? That number

will understandably vary from person to person, but whatever that number is, once you’ve prayed about it & set it, make plans to draw it and...

...Give Away Everything Else!!!

Three “P’s” of Generous Giving:

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

Conclusion: Everything I have just described is absolutely foolish by every other metric in the universe...other than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the gospel that proclaims the way to be great is to serve. It is the gospel that reminds us that we gain by losing, and it is Jesus who reminds us that...

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” **Acts 20:35b**

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)

