

The Bottom Line

Get Your Heart Right

Matthew 6:19-24

“You don’t have to be rich to be generous, you have to be generous to be generous.” Johnny M. Hunt

“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.” 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

“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 with Money is that it’s All About the Heart

Two Things I Must Know about My Heart from Matthew 6:19-24

I. Your Money will Tell Your Heart What is Most Important

When the Bible says the word ‘heart’, it is referring to *the spiritual part of us where our emotions and desires dwell.*

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

“God wants your heart. He isn’t looking just for ‘donors’ for His kingdom, those who stand outside the cause and dispassionately consider acts of philanthropy. He is looking for disciples immersed in the causes they give to. He wants people so filled with a vision for eternity that they wouldn’t dream of not investing their money, time, and prayers where they will matter most.” Randy Alcorn

II. Money Cannot Be Most Important

“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 6:24

In Ecclesiastes chapter five, King Solomon notes a few problems with serving money instead of God.

- **Vs. 10** - *“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money...”* (The more you have, the more you want. It’s never enough.)
- **Vs. 10** - *“Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.”* (The more you have, the less satisfying it is.)
- **Vs. 11** - *“When goods increase, they increase who eat them.”* (The more you have, the more people (govt) will come after it.)

- **Vs. 11** - *“And what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?”* (The more you have, the more you realize it’s worthless)
- **Vs. 12** - *“Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.”* (The more you have, the more there is to worry about)
- **Vs. 13** - *“There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by the owner to his hurt.”* (Hoarding hurts)
- **Vs. 14** - *“And those riches were lost in a bad venture.”* (The more you have, the more you have to lose)
- **Vs. 15** - *“As he came from his mother’s womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand.”* (The more I have, the more I leave behind)

“The care of \$200 million is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it.” W.H. Vanderbilt

“I am the most miserable man on earth.” John Jacob Astor

“I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness.” John D. Rockefeller

“Millionaires seldom smile.” Andrew Carnegie

“I was happier when doing a mechanic’s job.” Henry Ford

“And he said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’ And he told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all of my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:15-21 // You can’t serve God & Money; what’s it going to be?

To the Unbeliever: The bottom line: God is jealous & demands a choice.

To the Believer: If we examined your bank statement, w-2’s and giving statements what would it say about your heart as it relates to money? It might say something like... **Get your heart right!** It will follow your money!

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)

