

I. Intro

A. Series Theme: **Matt. 6:21**

²¹ *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)*

1. The way in which we handle earthly resources says a lot about the current state of our hearts.
2. The way in which we handle earthly resources is an indicator about the future state of our hearts.
 - a. God gives us access to resources and then invites us to join into a prophetic act (with those resources) that projects our future.
 - i. Where our treasure is, our hearts will follow.
3. God is not concerned about money. He's concerned about our hearts.
 - a. Nothing wrong with money.

¹⁰ *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. (1 Tim. 6:10)*

- b. The problem is not money.
 - c. There's something drastically wrong with our hearts.
4. Money talks.

B. Past Reluctance to Talk Money

1. Jesus loved to talk about money. It was one of His principal ways of getting His point across.
 - a. **Mk. 8:36**: *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"*
 - b. **Lk. 16:1**: *"There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.*
 - c. **Lk. 16:19-20**: ¹⁹ *"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate.*
2. Since Jesus placed a premium on teaching about money, I place a premium on teaching about money.

II. How We View Money Is Derived From the Way We View God

A. God Owns Everything

¹ *The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. (Ps. 24:1)*

1. **Ownership:** *The state of possessing exclusive rights and control over land, property, thoughts.*

("Ownership." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 1 Jan. 2019. Web. 5 Jan. 2019).

- a. *Also includes the exclusive right to enjoy, occupy, use, give away, or even destroy an item.*

(<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/ownership.html>)

- b. Renters, Executive Directors, clients and employees can easily be confused with owners.

2. Creation Validates Ownership

- a. In November of 2016, the internet went viral with a Thanksgiving sensation called the "U Name It Challenge".

- i. Beans, greens, potatoes, tomatoes, lamb, rams, hogs, dogs.
- ii. Shirley Caesar, filed an injunction against videos of this sort and claimed that she was the rightful owner of all such content.
- iii. The basis for Caesar's claim of ownership was that she was the creator, writer and originator of such content and that she alone had the right to decide how it should be used.

- b. By virtue of His creative copyright, God is the rightful owner of everything.

B. Mankind Has Delegated Dominion

²⁷ *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* ²⁸ *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over*

the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:27-28)

1. Created in the very image of God.
 - a. God looked at Adam and Eve and saw His kingdom being established through them.
 - i. Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth.
 - b. Subdue it and exercise dominion.
2. Mankind was granted dominion over that which rightfully belongs to only God.

¹⁵ *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. (Gen. 2:15)*

- a. Although mankind was granted authority over resources, it was delegated authority to serve as stewards.

Steward: *someone who has been entrusted with someone else's affairs, estate, children or finances.*

- b. If the whole earth is the Lord's and we simply steward His resources, then we've mixed some things up.
 - c. The only One worthy to own is God.
 - i. Only God has the right to determine what He does with His stuff.
 - ii. When we refuse to serve as stewards (managers) of God's resources, we elevate ourselves to the place of God.
 3. Tendency is to divide the sacred from the secular: God you rule over the churchy stuff and I'll rule over the rest.
 4. Stewardship is the snapshot of the Christian life: *“My life is not my own”*
 - a. Nothing belongs to us, we simply steward with joy. Grateful that it was entrusted to us for a season.

C. God Is Pleased to Place His Resources in the Hands of Stewards

1. Money is not bad. Our hearts are bad.

¹⁰ *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim. 6:10)*

- i. What has first place in your life.
- 2. Money is not good. God is good.

Blessed be God who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. (Psalm 35:27)

- a. God has pleasure in prospering those who will use His resources as tools to build His Kingdom.
 - i. God has pleasure in those who find pleasure in Him.
- 3. Money is to be a resource to bring glory to God as we enjoy Him and all that He has to offer.

²² *The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it. (Prov. 10:22)*

- a. When our passion is God, His purposes, his Kingdom... money is not a stumbling stone.
 - i. It's a part of the blessing.

b. Wealth Will Be Transferred One Way or Another.

²² *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. (Prov. 13:22)*

- i. God loves to build His Kingdom through family.
- c. Generational wealth can be a love testimony to children's children... that God loves family.

III. Conclusion

A. God Has Provided Money, Land and Resources As A Heart Thermometer

¹¹ *"Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,*

¹² lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; ¹³ and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵ who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end— ¹⁷ then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ ¹⁸ “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. (**Deut. 8:11-18**)

1. Tendency is to forget that God is God.
 - a. Forget what He’s brought us through.
 - b. “My power and my might has done this for me.”
 - i. Reject the position of stewards and usurp the place of owners.
 - ii. Usurp the place of God.
2. Reviewing how we deal with money exposes our wicked hearts.
 - a. How we spend money declares that either God is God (the rightful owner and ruler of all things) or that we are.
 - b. Reviewing how we spend money tells a compelling story of the idols (self) that we’ve been serving for years.
 - c. Gives us the privilege of going to the one who alone can change our wicked hearts.