THE FIRST SERMON

THE BIBLE LAB

YES&NO

1. We become less generous when we doubt that heaven is real.
2. Generosity can keep you out of heaven.
3. Reporting contributions for IRS purposes cancels out our reward in heaven.
4. I've always understood it is possible to have rewards here and rewards in heaven, too.
5. I know how to tell where my treasure is.

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DIG DEEP

READ: Matthew 6:1-5 (NASB)

1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. 2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. 5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

∞ What is the human qualifier for practicing righteousness?

- We do most things with both hands. Why did Jesus say not to "let your left hand know what your right hand is doing?"

» What is the social implication of Him saying "left hand" first?

∞ What is so serious and final about "They have their reward in full?"

» What is understood about this in our daily commerce?

∞ Is it true that we become less generous when we doubt that heaven is real? How is that true?

» What does generosity have to do with heaven?

NOTES

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DIG DEEP...CONTINUED

READ: Matthew 6:16-24 (NASB)
16 "Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face 18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

∞ What makes anything an earthly treasure? Do you know how much you own?

» What is the general definition of "moth and rust" and the understanding by the hearers when Jesus warned them about earthly treasure?

∞ How is having an "eye" for something both good and bad? What was Jesus warning about?

» What is there in our earthly, human environment that cannot be destroyed or stolen?

∞ Is the accumulation of worldly wealth a reflection of fear and anxiety about the future?

» What do you think Jesus meant by warning about "serving" wealth?

NOTES

TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT...

1. How can I be more generous in thought and word and actions with each of Your children You let me meet?

2. God, how can I make You the Master of everything in my life and choices?"

3. Please stop me Lord when I seek any praise for anything.

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