

“Resources and Kingdom Rewards” [Pt. 2]

Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus declared that where our treasure is, there your heart will be also [Matt.6:19-21]. Our heart always follows after our treasure. So if you lay-up treasure in heaven that is where your passion will be. Discover with us how to please Christ and earn rewards.

Discussion Qs

- 1. How does a person’s actual use of the time, talents, and treasure that God has entrusted to them reflect their proclaimed faith in God?**
- 2. How might a person use their time talents and treasure to create heavenly treasure?**
- 3. How are you laying up treasure in heaven?**
- 4. What changes will you make to please Christ and earn rewards?**

Pastor Justin Bell

Mobil Campus

intro. Discovering how God wants us to use resources - no regrets

Subject: Resources and Kingdom Rewards

Object: Use resources to please the King and earn rewards

A. A Right Heart: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also [Matt. 6:19-21]

- **1. Earthly treasure provides limited benefits and security [19]**
- **2. Heavenly treasure provides eternal benefits and perfect security [20]**
- **3. Your heart always follows your treasure [21]** this life or life to come
 - a. You need to establish treasure in heaven [rewards account]
 - i. Jesus talked more about money than any other subject, because He competed with money for the hearts of people
 - ii. Heaven, not earth, is a Christian’s home, but if all your treasure is on earth that is where your heart/love will be.
 - iii. Focus on the eternal (life in heaven) not temporal (life on earth)
- **4. Your giving reflects what you love and where your treasure is [Matthew 6:24]**
- **“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [riches].” - Matthew 6:24**
- You can tell a person’s priorities by their check register.
- Vacuum cleaner belt

B. A Right Attitude: Be wise in your financial planning [Lu. 12:15-21]

- **1. Guard against greed because your life is more than material wealth [15]**
 - **a. This life is merely the beginning for eternal life – plan with an eternal view**
 - **b. Giving is the only antidote for materialism**
- **2. A lesson to contrast foolish and wise financial planning [16-21]**

- **a. Man's view:** A successful farmer [businessman] had a very prosperous season. He decides to save his gain [financially conservative]. Expects to retire and enjoy a peaceful, pleasant, prosperous, & protracted (long) life on earth [16-19]. That night he died [20]. His enjoyment of his wealth was of limited duration.
- **b. God's view:** Ungrateful for God's blessings. Did not honor or trust God, but his wealth. He was foolish for he neglected the eternal consequences of laying up treasure solely on earth rather than in heaven.
- **c. What you can learn:**
 - **i. Man has a duty to honor God with the resources that God has provided [21]**
 - **God prospers not to simply raise your standard of living, but standard of giving**
 - Eden at bday parties
 - **ii. Accumulating wealth without regard for your responsibility to God is foolish [20]**
 - **iii. Use your abundance to create heavenly treasure by being freed for kingdom giving + kingdom living [service]**

C. Right Thinking: A summary of financial theology (Who owns what? Who owes what?)

- **1. We are managers of God's time, talent, & treasure [Mt. 25:14-30, Lu. 19:11-17]**
 - **a. What we owe: God expects a return on what He has entrusted to us**
 - i. Parables of the Talents [Matt. 25:14-30], and Minas [Lu. 19:11-27]
 - **b. It all belongs to God we are stewards [trustees] who will give an account**
 - **c. Stewardship essentials Mt 25:14-29 (parable of talents)**
 - **i. We are not the boss, we don't own anything**
 - **ii. We don't determine the amount entrusted to us**
 - **iii. We are responsible to use His resources to advance His agenda**
 - **iv. We will give an account for what we did when Christ returns**
 - **v. We will be rewarded by God if we are faithful**
 - **vi. We will be rebuked if unfaithful**
 - **vii. Our eternal experience (not destiny) is determined by how we used resources in this life**
- **2. God has promised to reward those who use His resources for His glory**
 - **a. What God promises you: God will reward all that you do that is motivated by love for Him, and a desire to advance his kingdom [Matt. 5:11-12, 6:1-4, 5-6, 6:16-17, 6:19-20, 10:41-42, 19:28-29, etc.]**
 - **"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." - Revelation 22:12**
 - **b. God honors those who honor Him: no smarter financial decision than managing God's resources for His glory & honor. Mt. 19:29 100-fold return**
 - **"But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." - Hebrews 11:6**
 - **"Bring all the tithes into the store house, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.'" - Malachi 3:10**
 - **c. The only way that God's resources become yours is when you use them for His kingdom [Matt. 6:19-21]**

Communion:

Reflection and call to action:

1. Awareness: Ideally you now understand the reality and reasons for kingdom rewards. If you have questions we are available to try to answer.
2. Appreciation: All true worship and sacrifice of time, talent, and treasure for Christ flows from appreciation of what Christ has done for us at the cross.
3. Assessment: Does your actual use of the time, talents, and treasure that God has entrusted to you reflect your proclaimed faith in God?
4. Action: What changes will you make to please Christ and earn rewards?

Pastor Bruce Zachary Lewis Campus

"Resources and Kingdom Rewards" [Pt. 2] Matt. 6:19-21 10.4.15

intro. experience re practicing law and choice to trade earthly wealth for heavenly (eternal) treasure as I felt Christ had called *me* to serve Him full time. No regrets! Occasionally visit homes of wealthy friends & the thought comes up, "I could have had ..." And then God gently says, "It is still your choice ..." The eternal rewards are always better than the earthly treasure we give up! No regrets. Would you like to know how to use resources to please Christ & earn eternal rewards? Today as we complete a 4-week series on Kingdom rewards we hope to do that.

Subject: Resources and Kingdom Rewards

Object: Use resources to please the King and earn rewards

Review: considered the reality + reasons

A. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also [Matt. 6:19-21]

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1. Earthly treasure provides limited benefits and security [19]

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3. Your heart always follows your treasure [21] this life or life to come

a. You need to establish treasure in heaven

i. Jesus talked more about money than any other subject, because He competed with money for the hearts of people

ii. Heaven, not earth, is a Christian's home, but if all your treasure is on earth that is where your heart/love will be.

iii. Focus on the eternal (life in heaven) not temporal (life on earth)

4. Your giving reflects what you love and where your treasure is [Matt. 6:24]

Mt 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [riches].

- a. God prospers not to simply raise your standard of living, but standard of giving
- b. You can tell a person's priorities by their check register & calendar

B. Be wise in your financial planning [Lu. 12:15-21]

1. Guard against greed because your life is more than material wealth [15]

Be on guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life doesn't consist in the abundance of His possessions.

a. This life is merely the beginning for eternal life – plan with an eternal view

- b. Giving is the only antidote for materialism

2. A lesson to contrast foolish and wise financial planning [16-21]

16Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. **17**And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' **18**So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. **19**And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.'" **20**But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' **21**"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

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C. A summary of reward theology: Who owns what? Who owes what?

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 - iv. You will account for what you did when Christ returns
 - v. You will be rewarded by God if you are faithful
 - vi. Your eternal experience is determined by performance in this life
 - vii. Those who refuse to use their time, talents, or treasure for God are likely not saved

2. God has promised to reward those who use His resources for His glory

a. What God owes you: God has promised to reward all that you do that is motivated by love for Him, and a desire to advance his kingdom [Matt. 5:11-12, 6:1-4, 5-6, 6:16-17, 6:19-20, 10:41-42, 19:28-29, etc.]

Rev. 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

b. God honors those who honor Him: no smarter financial decision than managing God's resources for His glory & honor.

i. Mt. 19:29 100-fold return [100 -> 10,000]

Heb.11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

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