

Money Money Money - Where is Your Treasure?

Central text is Luke 12:33-34. Outline and majority of material is from John Piper's article "Treasures on Earth" in a 2009 issue of TableTalk.

Inner essence of worship is treasuring Jesus as infinitely valuable above everything.
Outer forms of worship are the acts that show how much we treasure God.

Money and possessions are a big part of life.

“Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Luke 12:33–34

Three observations:

1. First, embracing Jesus as our great Treasure motivates us toward simplicity rather than accumulation.

Jesus doesn't say how many possessions we are to sell. However, in Scripture there is precedence for the Tithe - the Hebrew word for a tenth of our earnings. (Malachi 3:7-10)

Giving in the New Testament

- The Early Church (Acts 2:45)
- Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10)
- The Generosity of the Macedonian Churches in the region of Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

Called to be Good Stewards

(1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Luke 16:1-2, 10-11)

But why does Jesus say to sell possessions at all?

Using your money to show love for those without the necessities of life (the truly poor-- those without food, clothing, and shelter) and those without the gospel (the necessity for eternal life) — is so important that *if you don't have any money to give, you should sell something so you can give.*

Loving those without the necessities of life - caring for the poor
(Isaiah 58:6-11, Ezekiel 16:49, Matthew 25:35-45, Galatians 2:9-10)

Loving those without the gospel (the necessity for eternal life) - supporting those that teach the Scriptures. This is first and foremost!

(Numbers 18:8-13, Galatians 6:6, 1 Timothy 5:17-18)

2. Second, the purpose of money is to maximize our treasure in heaven, not on the earth.

3. Third, your heart moves toward what you cherish, and God wants you to move toward Him.

This is worship: the heart's cherishing God and seeking Him as the treasure above all treasures.

Conclusion

Relating these three observations from [Luke 12:33-34](#) to the corporate act of worship we call "the offering." -- this moment will be worship for you if by giving you say from the heart: **"One, I hereby trust you, God, as my happy, generous Shepherd, Father, and King so that I will not be afraid when I have less money for myself in supplying the needs of others. Two, I hereby resist the incredible pressure in our culture to accumulate more and more and cast my lot with the motivation to simplicity for the sake of others. Three, I hereby lay up treasure in heaven and not on earth so that my joy in God will be maximized forever. And four, with this offering I declare that since my treasure is in heaven, my heart goes after God."**