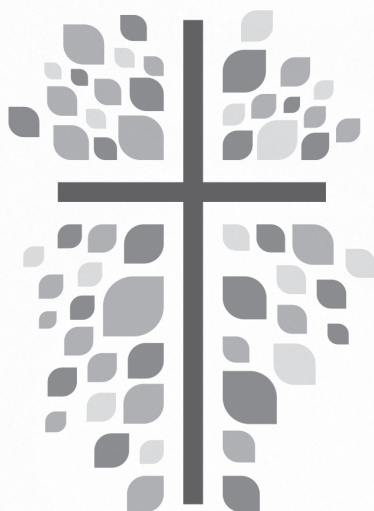


FINANCIAL HOPE

Find Freedom in Your Finances
Through God's Word



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Aligning Your Heart with God's

MATTHEW 6:20-21

*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.*

John 3:16 is probably the most familiar Bible verse today. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son.” Did you catch that? Did you catch what God’s love compelled Him to do?

Give. It’s that simple. Giving is the ultimate expression of love.

Catherine worked an hourly job at a bakery and saw it as a part of her job to pray for her customers. She dreamed of one day owning a car and had managed to save \$5,000 for that purpose. Through her church, she became aware of a woman in need and wanted to help. After much thought and prayer, she felt led to give this woman all

her car savings. Questioning whether she had done the right thing, she sheepishly shared this story with a regular customer. The customer was so moved by Catherine's generosity that she and her husband decided to buy Catherine a brand-new car. Catherine was blown away by their generosity. When asked about why she gave away her hard-earned savings, she said, "We don't give in order to receive. We give because it's the nature of Jesus Christ. He gave us His life, so we have the DNA of Jesus Christ, [the DNA] of giving."¹

Catherine did not give to receive; she gave because she loved. If we want to act like our Heavenly Father and express our love for Him and other people, we give. The very nature of God is to love. The natural expression of that love is giving. And when we give, our hearts become aligned with God's character.

Not only is giving the way to align our hearts with God's, it is also the thing that will bring us the most joy for all of eternity. Giving demonstrates love, expresses the Gospel, moves our heart toward God, and brings us joy. If all these things are true, then we would be foolish not to pursue the riches of generosity! Aligning our hearts with God is the best thing we can do for today and eternity.

¹ The video of this story can be seen at generousgiving.org/media/videos/i-like-car.

EXPLORING MATTHEW 6:20-21

How does putting your treasure in heaven move your heart toward heaven?

What do you think it means to lay up treasures in heaven?

“Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”

Read MATTHEW 25:31-46. What were those on the King's right hand doing to lay up treasures in heaven?

What do you think motivated these people on the King's right hand to provide food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, shelter the stranger, clothes for the naked, and company for the prisoner?



1. *According to Luke 6:38, what is the result of our giving?*

“Where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal”

Read 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9. How do we become rich?

What does it mean to be rich in the way this verse describes?

According to LUKE 12:16-21, what happens to your plentiful produce when you die?

What is a plentiful produce that will last after you die?



“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

According to LUKE 16:13, what two things does Jesus say we cannot serve at the same time?

Why do you think that the love of money leads to hating and despising God?

What are some practical things you can do to move your heart toward God and away from a love of money?

APPLYING MATTHEW 6:20-21

Does the way you use your money reflect where you want your treasure to be? If not, how could you begin to change the way you use your money so that it does?



Take a few moments to ask God to help you align how you use your money with His heart.

