

Treasure in Heaven

Introduction:

The only other theme Jesus spoke about more than money is the kingdom of God. Why? Is it because God needs your finances? Not at all. After all, everything we have already belongs to God.

So why is this such a focus and why do people sometimes get anxious when we talk about money and faith? Well, if we look to the teachings of Jesus, we see that he talks about wealth, not to fundraise for a cause, but because he knows that of all the things in the world that can become an idol (a false god) in our life, money is at the top of the list.

Generosity is a matter of the loyalty of our heart. Jesus teaches in the gospel today that, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Does this mean that money is evil? No, 1 Timothy teaches the truth that the "love of money is the root of all evil." In other words, when Jesus talks about money he is really asking us about who or what do we love? Above all things, our calling is to love the Lord our God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength (Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, and Luke 10:27). When we do, through the power of God's forgiveness and grace, our hearts begin to beat in alignment with the heart of God, who generously blesses us all.

Read Your Bible

- 1 Timothy 6:10
- Matthew 6:19-24

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. Is money good or bad? Why or why not?
2. What is a false idol?
3. Why can money become a false idol in our lives so easily?
4. What does it look like to love God more than we love money?
5. How do we build treasure in heaven?
6. What are the challenges in our world to generosity?
7. How important is this?
8. How do we teach our children about generosity?
9. What is the best way to talk to others about money and faith?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Father, we confess to you that often we place pursuit of the material comforts of this world above you. Forgive us and align our hearts with yours. May we be generous as you are generous, forgive as you forgive, be compassionate as you show compassion, and love as you have called us to love. In Jesus' name. Amen.