

Money and Possessions

more blessed to give than receive

Start Here

- How has your background and upbringing shaped your attitude towards money and your use of money?
- Do you think money has anything to do with your faith and relationship with God? Why?

Main Idea (Part 1)

Did you know that Jesus talked more about issues related to money and possessions than he did about heaven and hell combined?

He told parables about money. He challenged a rich young man about money. When Zacchaeus repented and said “If I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will restore it fourfold,” Jesus said, “Today, salvation has come to this house” (Luke 19:8-9).

Why did Jesus talk so much about money? Because he doesn’t want money to control our lives here on earth.

Explore the Word (Part 1)

Read Matthew 6:19-21

From this passage, answer these questions:

- Is Jesus against people having treasure?
- What is the reason Jesus focuses on heaven?
- Why do think Jesus says “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” instead of saying, “For where your heart is, there your treasure will be also”?

Discuss

Imagine you are in this situation: You are hoping to move to a new city where you will live for the rest of your life. You currently have a job and are living in a temporary place until you can move, perhaps a hotel room or a small apartment.

How much of your money would you invest on redecorating, furnishing and buying things for your hotel room or apartment, and how much would you invest for your future life in the new city?

Main Idea (Part 2)

If we spend all our money for possessions in this world, we are like the person who buys furniture and redecorates a hotel room they will leave in a short time.

Instead, Jesus wants us to be focused on eternity. One key way we do this is by being generous with the money we have and investing in the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants us to trust God for this life and to be givers.

It's more blessed to give than receive.

Jesus also knows that being a giver is the route to being increasingly blessed. In fact, he says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35 NIV).

He also says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap" (Luke 6:38 NIV).

Explore the Word (Part 2)

Read Luke 21:1-4

- Why was Jesus impressed with the widow?
- If Jesus saw how you use money, what do you think he would say?
- Why do you think it is more blessed to give than receive?

Practice Together Now

How to invest in treasure in heaven and be generous

It's vitally important to know that the joy of giving is not the privilege of the rich. Everyone, no matter how poor, can be generous.

Do you want to start investing in treasures in heaven? Do you want to experience the joy and blessing of being a generous giver? If so here are three simple steps to help you start:

1. **Remember, don't wait till you are rich.** Consider what you have that you can be generous with.
2. **Pray about a monthly gift you would like to give to the Lord.** This can be given to your local church.
3. **Look for opportunities to be even more generous.** In addition to money, what else do you have that you can be generous with? As we live life, we see needs and opportunities to be generous to others. There are many different kinds of valuable projects and ministries we can support with our giving, including feeding the poor, and helping the suffering.

Review your Practice Daily

- Read and meditate on these passages:
 - Luke 12:13-21
 - Matthew 25:31-46
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- As you notice needs around you, pray together about how you could be involved.