



CALLLED TO BE **Different**

Finances and your Heart

Heritage Alliance Church
January 21, 2024
Pastor Shawn Hubert

The Heart of the Money & Worry – Matthew 6:19-34

¹⁹ “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven,

²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

³⁰ Why do you have so little faith? ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. ³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Our resources can create independence from our creator and challenge our ability to trust following Him. Matthew 19:16-26

Spiritual health is demonstrated practically in our daily lives by what we think about, worry about, and by what we long for.

Money stress is a heart / faith issue,

- Trust in the goodness of God – He knows, He Cares
- Trust in the provision of God – He feeds where He leads

For a follower of Jesus: Earthly treasures aren’t to be a priority.

For a follower of Jesus: Earthly treasures are seen as temporary trust

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Luke 12:48

“To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.” Matthew 25:29

Practically, how do we keep ourselves free from worry & love of money?

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy. 6:17-19

- Regular habits of Gratitude & Generosity

“...remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth” Deuteronomy 8:18

- Seek the Kingdom of God above ALL else.

Questions: Is it possible to live without worry? What helps you trust God more and worry less? How is your faith demonstrated in how you use your money? How do you invest in eternity? How do you put the kingdom of God first?

Summary of Matthew 6

Earthly treasures are TEMPORARY & UNTRUSTWORTHY

Heavenly treasure is the only LASTING INVESTMENT

Our hearts & thoughts are CONNECTED to our treasure

Money can direct you and COMPETE with devotion to God

Worry takes our FOCUS off the goodness of God

God will take care of you; YOUR NEEDS matter to Him

Your Worry about money reveals a LACK of FAITH in God

God KNOWS your situation and IS IN CONTROL

God MEETS NEEDS of those he LEADS.

Focus on living for the eternal KINGDOM of GOD

Love of money is cured with acts of GENEROSITY, and building HABITS of regular GIVING as part of your worship.

Jesus' view of how his followers treat money

1. God is the OWNER I am his MANAGER

"... the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a trip. He called together his servants and gave them money to invest for him while he was gone.... To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away." Matthew 25:14,29

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48

"But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth" Deuteronomy 8:18

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1

Matthew 6:19-21,24

2. Earthly treasures aren't a PRIORITY.

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal.

- Dumps are full of other people's treasures

3. Heavenly treasure is the only WISE INVESTMENT.

Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves.

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." 1Timothy. 6:17-19

- Fortune Teller – came from the future and said...

- Two paths for your life...

- invest heavily in this market – in 10 years it will pay off and you will never have to worry about anything again....

- invest in this – instantly you will enjoy all kinds of riches for the next 10 years but then you will lose it all... and live poor for the rest of your life...

4. Our Hearts are CONNECTED to our treasure.

Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

- Some want Treasures they can drive, and sit in... - enjoyment

- Some want treasures they can look at in a statement – security

A man named Stumpy illustrates how money affects people. Stumpy and his wife Martha went to the state fair every year and every year when Stumpy saw the antique bi-plane he would say, "Martha, I'd like to ride in that airplane." Martha always replied, "I know Stumpy, but that airplane ride costs 10 dollars, and 10 dollars is 10 dollars.

One year Stumpy and Martha went to the fair and Stumpy said, "Martha, I'm 81 years old. If I don't ride that airplane I might never get another chance." Martha replied, "Stumpy, that airplane ride cost 10 dollars, and 10 dollars is 10 dollars.

The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you: but if you say one word it's 10 dollars."

Stumpy and Martha agreed and up they went. The plot did all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word was heard. He did all his tricks over again, but still not a word.

When they landed, the pilot turned to Stumpy and said, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't."

Stumpy replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Martha fell out, but 10 dollars is 10 dollars."

5. Money always CHALLENGES OUR COMMITMENT to God
No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Several years ago, construction workers happened upon a corpse outside the ancient city of Pompeii, where many people died when a volcano exploded. The evidence surrounding this corpse (a woman) was interesting. Apparently, she had been fleeing from the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Overtaken by the molten lava, she died in the hot ashes. The corpses revealed hands that were clutched around jewels. The jewels had survived, but the woman had not. The same is true today. Death will overtake all of us and strip us of our earthly wealth.

That story helps you put life into perspective. – We continue to live, but we can't take anything with us... and holding onto what we can't take, can cost us life itself.

Another occasion – Jesus said – For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul

Rich Young Ruler – Matthew 19:16-26

Wanted the list of rules – But Jesus wanted his heart.

What has your heart? Jesus will ask you to give it up to follow him.. you can follow all the rules, but if something else has your heart – you cannot follow.

The more we have the harder it is to follow God.

"the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Tim. 6:10 NKJV)

6. A focus on money brings STRESS and WORRY.

So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life – whether you have enough food, drink and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not. And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.

➤ Worry comes from an illusion of CONTROL

7. God cares about your NEEDS.

And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you?

III- Did you know that during the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco that during the first half of the construction 23 men fell to their deaths in the waters below. It was so dangerous that they stopped construction. Then they built a huge net under the bridge at a cost of \$100,000, so if anyone did fall they would not be hurt. During the second half of the construction only 8 men fell and of course, none of them died. But here's the amazing thing... during the last half of construction the work proceeded at 25% greater efficiency. Having the net under them didn't make them more careless it made

them more confident & more efficient. Those workers experienced a new freedom. Money, and the worry that travels with it, can place you in bondage

8. Worrying about earthly needs reveal UNBELIEF in God.

You have so little faith! So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things?

9. God knows your SITUATION and is in CONTROL

Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day.

10. God FEEDS those he LEADS.

...if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern."

My IN laws are here today, and I would like to take them out for a nice lunch and since God feeds those he leads, does anyone have 50 bucks to give me for lunch?

- It is easy to give up what isn't ours.
- It is easy not to worry about what isn't ours
- It is easy to be content with what you didn't expect to get.

A story based on Jesus' and other new testament teachings

A rich man died and went to heaven. As he went through the Pearly Gates, Peter came to greet him and said, "Welcome to heaven. Let me show you where you'll be staying."

That suited the rich man just fine, because as he looked around, he saw mansions stretching out in every direction. They were beautiful! They appeared to be constructed of gold and silver and precious gems.

As Peter and the rich man began to walk along the streets of gold, they came to an ornate home. As they paused to gaze at it, the rich man said, "Who gets to stay here?" Saint Peter replied, "That's for your janitor. He was a godly man who loved Jesus and served Him all his life. This is his reward."

They continued to stroll past other mansions, until they stopped in front of an extremely large one that seemed to be made of emeralds and rubies. The rich man asked Peter, "Is this mine?" Peter answered, "No, this one belongs to your maid. On the little bit of money you paid her, she raised six children and gave to her church every week."

They continued to walk and came to a different section of homes. Only these houses weren't as nice. As they walked up a small hill, they stopped in front of a shack made of tar paper and used sheet metal. The front door was cut out of an old refrigerator box. It was held together with bailing wire and twine.

After pausing for a moment, the rich man asked, "And whose is that?" Peter responded, "Why, it's yours!" The rich man couldn't believe it. There must be some mistake. Peter bowed his head and said, "No, there's been no mistake -- we did the best with what you sent ahead!"