

Stewardship In Light Of Eternity

Matthew 6:19-24

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Here are a few summary statements from last time.

- We are supposed to use money and treasure people; **we are not supposed to use people and treasure money.**
- Steward – Someone an owner **entrust** with the management of **his assets.**
- Primary Goal of a steward - **to be found faithful** in managing the owner's assets. *1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*
- Since God owns everything: Every financial decision is a **spiritual decision.**
- Stewardship is not a sub-category of the Christian life: **It is the Christian Life.**
- The owner (of all) will return and he will **demand an accounting** of all. *Rom 14:12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Still not sure about whether God is interested in your finances? Luke 3:7-14 John's major evidence of repentance was a change of attitude **toward finances.**

Jesus speaks about managing money in light of eternity

1. Choose your **kingdom** carefully
 - a. Choose between earth or heaven as your **treasury** (verses 19-21) No earthly treasure is **safe**
 - b. Choose between a good eye or an evil eye (verses 22-23) Covetousness is **idolatry**
 - i. *Col 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness (greed) which is idolatry.*
 - c. Choose between God or money as your **master** (verse 24) You only have one **throne** in your life
2. Consider your **eternal** destiny (verse 20) *...in heaven!*
 - a. You can't take it with you but you can **send it** on ahead!
 - b. You can't reinterpret scripture to your own liking – the subject is **generosity!**
 - i. *Luke 12:33-34 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
 - ii. *1 Tim 6:18-19 Let them do good (the wealthy), that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*
 - c. You can't show proof of a desire for Heaven if you have **little invested there.**
 - i. *Ps 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

3. Count on a **reward** in eternity (verse 20) *"lay up for yourselves..."*
 - a. Heavenly rewards are **God's idea** – *Matt 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. (See also Matt 6:1-2; 1 Cor 3:8; Col 3:24; 2 John 8; Rev 22:12)*
 - b. Heavenly Rewards **cannot be lost** - Lk 12:33-34 (Above)
 - c. Heavenly rewards **reveal** your heart – *Mt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Final thoughts:

- Be an Obedient Owner out of **love for God** – Deut 7:9 *"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*
- Be an obedient Owner out of reverent **fear of God** – Heb 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*
- Be an Obedient Owner believing God's promise **of a reward** - Heb 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*