

The Stewardship of Generations: *Our Money*

(Matthew 6:19-33)

Septic: don't have to clean out very often, BUT when you do- you & your neighbors know. Like preaching on money. Not often. But it's just as awkward. Sometimes you just gotta...

Vision: *Thirsty Souls Restored, Lives Changed, and Joyful Disciples worshipping Christ*

Mission: 'Leading ALL GENERATIONS to love God, follow Jesus, and model His mission to transform *all* peoples and nations with the gospel'

-Summary: *All Generations Worshipping God*

Series: "The Stewardship of Generations"

The goal of this series is to help us learn to **TRUST** God the Giver, to see trust as act of worship!

*Our truest worship begins in the *yielding* of our self, our desires, our possessions to God in order to have the Lord **replace** things we hold in this life with the *insatiable desire for Him most.*

=He becomes the prize!

All we are (life; breath; body; future) **and all we have** (what we touch) **belongs to HIM:** *believe?*

-Our **Families** belong to Jesus (we give them back *as soon as* we get them) -*Child dedication?*

-Our **Jobs** belong to Jesus (He alone gives us power to make wealth)

-Our **Church** belongs to Jesus (His Bride is worth our best effort to serve & bless)

Today: The Stewardship of our Money.

***Main Point:** Our MONEY belongs to Jesus first; Your giving to the Lord shows His worth in your life, to your family, and to a watching world

***What does Jesus, the King of the Universe, say about money & the Stewardship of your wealth and your heart? *In the Sermon on the mount, 20 topics - HEART = center:**

READ Matthew 6:19-33 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and ^[a]wealth. ²⁵ "**For this reason** I say to you, ^[a]do not be worried about your ^[a]life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing?²⁶ Look at the birds of the sky, that they do not sow, nor reap, nor gather *crops* into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more important than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single ^[a]day to his ^[a]life's span? ²⁸ And why are you worried about clothing? Notice how the lilies of the field grow; they do not labor nor do they spin *thread for cloth*, ²⁹ yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! ³¹ Do not worry then, saying, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear for clothing?' ³² For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ **But ^[a]seek first ^[a]His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be ^[a]provided to you.** -Do you trust God with your everything? Is He enough? His presence? ***SEEK** First His Kingdom/presence...then..

We seek to teach on **giving** because it's good for our soul in our relationship with God *more* than our relationship with the world. -1 John 2:15 "**Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**" This speaks to the deepest soul need. Investing in the promises of Jesus, His Kingdom, and the Father's glory rather than investing in the promises (lies) of this world with your money -is the heart of Kingdom stewardship.

A Theology of GIVING:

****2350** verses about giving and the stewardship of our money in Scripture. (Only 500 verses about faith; only about 500 verses on prayer) = God is saying we cannot easily separate our heart from our money; = "**Where our heart is, our treasure is**"

1. When we give, tithe, it *cannot* be **transactional** in nature. That we give to get....that dishonors the Lord. The Lord wants us to give sacrificially because He has changed our hearts (given us new life); that we have become new creations w/ Kingdom mindsets.
2. We give to honor the Lord with **ALL** that we have (life; time; families; church; money; exp)
3. We give to increase our **faith** -to trust God to provide as we give back what is already His.
4. We give to prove the Lord **correct** (to display His bounty and glory through His promises and generosity) -That He is a gracious God; a loving Father who knows how to provide for His children; who know how to give good gifts to His children. = **Our generosity reflects His generosity in our lives.**
5. We give to pour out what we have unto the Lord *because* He has perfectly **modeled** this for us. We give because He gave first – John 3:16
6. We give because it demonstrates God has **all** of our **hearts** already and we know that all that we have is already His -we are simply stewards for a season of our lives.
7. We give sacrificially because nothing on this earth will **satisfy** our hearts and spiritual longing like God Himself; **we give to show His worth to our hearts**; to our watching family; and to a watching world. He is worthy of any/all sacrifice we could make.

III. IF you live in a neighborhood where in general people make a similar salary, and your neighbor gets a boat – but bc you give to the church faithfully, you cannot afford a boat. -What do you do with that? You can't take that same vacation; you can't put your kids in that private school; you can't do that add on in the back yard -WHY?? Because you have invested in spiritual things; eternal things. Your sacrifice for spiritual investment will cost you!

What do you think your Return on that Investment is???

=Jesus tells us.... Heavenly reward. Eternal reward. That's a BIG DEAL!! World will never underst.

****Your giving to the Lord shows His worth to the world**

What do we notice in this passage? What does Jesus want you to understand about His Kingdom?

1. In Kingdom stewardship, giving *now* (Kingdom investment now) produces eternal results **NOW**. "**What we sow here, we will reap in heaven**" (Gal. 6:7) = sow into the Flesh (carnal) or the Spirit (et. life)
-Giving to the Lord is *not* only a **heart** issue, it is a spiritual **discipleship** issue = **sp. maturity**
Vs. 20: But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
-What is your Kingdom investment? Life? Time? Money? Discipleship? Service? Experience?
-What type of treasure are you securing in heaven? How fat is your heavenly bank acct?

2. In Kingdom stewardship, our **focus** matters. **We worship what we behold!** What's your focus? What we **focus** on affects how we see, interpret, and feel about this world & our life in it: If our focus is on our self, our circumstances, our needs, our wants, our rights, what others have & we don't, our problems, or our pain ...then our whole outlook, attitude, & approach to life will be clouded with despair, shame, and idol worship. =we can't help but be dejected spiritually!

Vs. 22: "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye (focus) is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye (focus) is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! -Jesus is saying that what you focus on (your spiritual sight) will either lead to Christ or away from Christ. To hope or to despair. To Life or to death. -**No neutral**

= If you are hyperfocused on hoarding your money, building your Kingdom, setting walls around your empire – *then Jesus will let you have it* -for now. Unfortunately, one day you will wake up & realize you built your life on a lie.=**Everything here is temporal**; All that you have you can lose; Nothing safe in this world; AND bc you are not living in neutral territory – 1Pet. 5:8 (the devil lives to steal, kill, and destroy Jn. 10:10) and he wants you SO distracted with your stuff, your problems, your rights, your money, your kingdom, your, your, your... that you miss heaven by a mile!!!

The Pharaohs, Kings & Queens; the Vikings were all buried with their wealth, their life possessions: -What happened? It was dug up and stolen....Nothing left; nothing to show for their life. GONE

Vs. 19: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." We are NOT to focus on material wealth **BUT** spiritual wealth=**sp. invest**

-Why are so many young adults today depressed, overwhelmed, anxious, over-medicated, and unhappy??? – Because they have been fed a steady diet of comparison with others (**don't feel they measure up; others are smarter, more beautiful, more athletic, more popular, wealthier, luckier, et.)**

-**Comparison is the ultimate JOY thief!** -Jesus is calling us to focus on Him, NOT others' lives; NOT the world's allure; NOT our circumstances; NOT our rights; NOT the evil one's lies or shame...**BUT HIM!**

-Where is your focus? What are you pursuing? Where is your spiritual aim?? World v. Christ? "You hit what you aim at, and if you aim at nothing you will hit it every time." -Zig Ziglar

3. In Kingdom Stewardship, you get one **LORD**. Either Jesus or the world. Jesus or your IDOL. Jesus or your money (=false identity; false security; false comfort; false eternity)

Vs. 24: "No one can serve two masters (Lord's) ; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. **Heart check???**

-Where the proof of Christ's Lordship in your Life? Displayed Time? Sched.? Money? Invstmnt?

4. In Kingdom stewardship, our life must reflect our total **trust** in God to lead & provide our **ALL**.

Vs. 25: "**For this reason** I say to you, ^{do} do not be worried about your ^{life} life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing? **Opposite of trust??** Doubt/uncertainty/skepticism "Has God said...?" **LIE**

-Worry, anxiety, fear shows a deep mistrust of God's heart; His intention; His sovereignty; goodness

*God already proved what length He would go to to provide for you: He sent His Son – to die in your place to give you salvation. His death brought you eternal life. God proved His love; goodness; & plan for your life. God showed His hand....**HE IS TRUSTWORTHY** with your life, eternity, & **ur money**

5. In Kingdom stewardship, God's **presence** has always been the **prize**. He is enough. He is sufficient. **HE is the PRIZE!** Once He is enough for you, your heart, life, & money are released to Him -you get it: ALL you are; All you have; & All you do is for HIS Glory – **you can't outgive Him!**

Vs. 32: for your heavenly Father *knows* that you need all these things. ³³ **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness[presence], and all these things will be provided to you.**

Do you believe this? When has God truly ever let you down? Do you trust Him with your whole life? Your family? Your Finances? Your Failures? Your future? Your whole heart??

Pastor, what do we do with this message? Take a hard look at *why* you give -IF you give??

Motivation in Giving: ***IF* He is enough; If He is the PRIZE; If He is sovereign & worthy of our all...and if all is already all His anyway.... THEN...

A. Our giving *cannot* be **transactional** in nature. That we give to get. We give to honor/worsh.

B. Our giving can never be seen as an act of **self-righteousness**. That we give because it was *our* idea to bless God; that God NEEDS us & our 'gifts' and somehow we have *earned* a reward from God for "giving" something of "ours" to Him out of duty/obedience/necessity ☹

-J. Piper "**An act that nullifies grace is evil and always fatal whenever you do it**"

Rather, we give because it is God's **nature** to give and we want to reflect *His* nature in all things. We give because He gives us grace. And in grace, we want to respond in worship, gratitude, & joyful sacrifice; AND even still, we can only do that *through His* power because He initiated grace *in us* & has provided all we own to us from His great storehouse in heaven. (Phil 2:13; Rom 11:35-36)

C. God blesses giving because giving is a gift *from* God & *for* God that is born in **grace**. **Grace is given to the needy, the helpless, the broken, the "have-nots."** = YOU and ME!

-God is committed to bless and reward those acts of faithfulness which intrinsically demonstrate our helplessness, dependence, and need of God! **We give bc of His grace!!!**

D. Because our **Generosity** is a *heart* issue, Generosity is not tied to how much we actually have, but actually how much we deeply trust the God who provides. **He owns it all.** This biblical principle reveals something about the human heart and the way God works: **Generosity flourishes where there is trust.** *Greed, then despair grows where there is fear.*

E. Giving is not merely a financial action. It is an act of **faith**.

Faithful giving is declaring that our hope is not in what *we accumulate*, but in the **One** who faithfully cares for us every day; who will provide for us in every way; who has our best interest at heart.

The Bible challenges a very common assumption: "**if I give more, I will have less.**" But the in Kingdom Stewardship, we know that **We actually gain by losing!** It's how we prove our trust!

That is why biblical generosity is not born from an *abundance* of resources, but from an abundance of trust. **Those who know the Father's heart learn to live with open hands.** And those who live with open hands discover that God is faithful; trustworthy; and *continues* to provide for, care for, and pour out grace for every day. Those who know the Father's heart remember that **God wants to be the great treasure of our hearts.** And foolishly and fatally, we make the idols of money, power, & security those fleeting treasures of this world our failing hope. **Have you had enough loss? Let downs? Rude awakenings? You tired/weary from the deceit from this world?** RUN to Jesus; Trust in Him; Let Him have ALL your life & future.

APPLICATION

1 -PRAY! Continue to fast; Pray more; Talk with family; ASK; Listen; Obey; & Commit!

*When we fast we focus on the effect of a superior satisfaction in God; and when we fast it is His chosen weapon against every force in the world that would take that satisfaction away!!

Fasting therefore is a real test to see which desires really control our heart.

ACTION PLAN:

2-If you have not been giving, please give; if you have been giving, become a regular giver; if you are a regular giver, please become a sacrificial giver; If you are a sacrificial giver – consider what is the next step of obedience for you.

3 -Commitment Card: October 3/4th (Spiritual -the HUB: ALL in *and* **Financial**) **3yr** commitment

*(**IF** not here on 3/4th weekend -U can turn it in anytime before; offering boxes; ONLINE; email Kimberly@thewellargyle.com Need all commitments in Before 12 NOON Sunday Oct. 4th

4 -Special Gift (one time gift?) “Big GIVE Sunday” **NOV 8th**, - We need to seed the bank acct to pay architect; civil engineers; sign contracts; move dirt – all in cash. Before we apply for loan: Cash; Stocks/bonds/Trust; gold/silver/sell jewelry; fixed asset: Motorcycle; boat; side by side; RV; Land; a vacation home; Last Testament & Will; -whatever the Lord puts on your heart. Bring as a GIFT offering that weekend:

Community Groups Questions

1. Jesus says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). **What does your current use of money reveal about what you value most?** Where do you see a tension between what you say you value and where your resources actually go?
2. Read Matthew 6:24. Jesus says we cannot serve both God and wealth. **What are some subtle ways money can become our master without us realizing it?** How can faithful giving help break money's control over our hearts?
3. Read Matthew 6:25–30. Jesus repeatedly tells His disciples not to worry about their material needs. **What financial fears most commonly compete with our trust in God's provision?** How does Jesus' picture of the Father's care challenge those fears?
4. **How is faithful giving an act of faith rather than merely an act of financial discipline?** What does giving require us to believe about God's character, His provision, and His faithfulness?
5. Read Matthew 6:31–32 and Philippians 4:19. **How should we distinguish between biblical confidence that God will provide and the false belief that God promises to make every Christian financially prosperous? Does God love the poor Christians less?**
6. Read Matthew 6:33 and 2 Corinthians 9:6–8. **What would it look like for our household to “seek first His kingdom” with our finances?** What specific changes might that produce in our saving, spending, giving, and lifestyle?
7. Imagine that you genuinely believed that **everything you possess ultimately belongs to God and that your Father is completely trustworthy.** How might that change the way you think about your paycheck, possessions, savings, generosity, and giving to the local church? **What is one step of faithful obedience God may be asking you to take?**