

The Five T's of Stewardship

Treasure

Matthew 6:19-34

Should we talk about money in Church?

The Bible does: Money 123 verses, riches 95 verses, Rich 80 verses
Poor 197 verses

The real issue is our hearts - and God cares about our hearts.

Jesus spoke of treasures in the Sermon on the Mount and did so in the context of four questions we need to ask about our treasure.

I. Where are you storing your treasures? **19-23**

A. On earth - subject to moths, rust and thieves

Today Banks subject to inflation, devaluation and thieves
Or stocks subject to volatility, crashes, and thieves

B. In heaven - totally secure

How? - Acts of kindness and generosity

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. Luther

C. The heart is the real issue **21**

We cannot separate our heart from that which it loves.
Whether I can give much or little
Jesus commended the widow who gave two mites (two cents)

D. It is the eye (heart desires) that really matter

If your eye is clear or good - means healthy or sincere
Seeing clearly we are not blinded by wealth.
If your eyes is bad or evil - means malicious or self-centered
When we see only our desires our world is in darkness

II. Who are you serving? **24**

A. The Dangers of serving Money

1. It is deceiving - **Deuteronomy 8:13-14**
Leads to pride and forgetfulness
2. It is deceitful - **Matthew 13:22** - choking out fruit
3. It is disappointing - **I Timothy 6:6-17**
Love of it leads to all kinds of evil
4. It can be destructive - **James 5:1-3**
It will testify against us

B. The choices - Hate and love, -Devoted or despise -- God or money

III. Where is your security? **25-32**

What do you worry about?

A. God provides what is needed for life - physical and spiritual

We are more valuable than the birds
Beware of hoarding and greed **Luke 12:15**

B. God cares for us more than for nature - but it is beautiful

The issue is our faith -- we have little faith.

C. God knows what we need.

The world around us will run after wealth

IV. What are you seeking? **33-34**

A. The whole issue is one of priorities

Seek **FIRST** His kingdom

Give according to his plan - Tithe

B. What does the Bible say about giving?

1. It should be done *Cheerfully* **II Cor. 9:6-7**
2. It should be done *Generously* **Mark 12:41-44**
3. It should be done *Regularly* **I Cor. 16:2** (1st day of week)
4. It should be done *According to your ability* **2 Cor. 8:12**

C. What does the Bible say about Tithing?

Tithing – giving 10% of all we make

1. It was established before the Law -not a part of the law
Abraham **Gen. 14:20**, Jacob **Gen. 28:22**
2. It was taught to the people of God as holy **Lev. 27:30**
3. It has to do with our relationship to God **Mal. 3:8-12**
4. It was approved by Christ **Matt. 23:23**
5. It has always been practiced by the evangelical church

So the questions remain:

Where are you storing your treasures?

Who are you serving?

Where is your security?

What are you seeking in life?

*6 month challenge - tithe for six months
If you believe God has not blessed your life
I will repay your tithe*