



SERIES OVERVIEW

This may come as a surprise to some, but other than perhaps prayer, or God himself, the topic of money, possessions, and generosity rise to the top as some of the most frequently discussed issues in the whole Bible. There is a reason for this. As the Apostle Paul says, *"the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows"* (1 Timothy 6:10).

However, the Bible does not speak of money in purely negative terms. In fact, what we *do* with our money can be a majorly significant aspect of our faith journey. In this series, we will explore the broad sweep of Scripture as it relates to giving, sacrifice, and generosity, the antidotes to the potential poison of wealth and prosperity. We will see the kind of generous lifestyle the Bible calls us to, and the abundance that can be ours if we trust God enough to give back to him some of what he has entrusted to us.

WEEK 1 - GENEROSITY IN JESUS OVERVIEW

A quick glance through the four gospels will reveal that Jesus cared a LOT about money and possessions. A huge number of his teachings are directly or indirectly about this topic. However, when viewed in light of the whole narrative of the Bible, it is clear Jesus' teachings fall squarely in line with the law and prophets before him. According to Jesus, where we put our money will say a lot about what we truly care about. And by giving generously to support the work of God, we will be avoiding the pitfalls of wealth and aligning our values with those of the abundant and compassionate kingdom of God.

*Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven!...
Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*
Luke 12:33-34

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you honestly feel about having a sermon series on money and generosity? Why?
2. Read [Matthew 6:19-21](#). Tim shared that most of the Jews hearing this message from Jesus would not have been able to "store up", or stockpile, anything, because they were poor. Why does Jesus ask them to store treasures in heaven and not on earth?
3. Considering the world behind the text, Tim mentioned that the word "treasure" in Jewish thinking had its roots in the story of Noah's ark. How does this affect our understanding of the passage in Matthew?
4. Read [Luke 12:13-34](#). What is treasured in heaven?
5. How can you tell what you (or someone else) care about?
6. Do you believe that you are God's treasure? Is it difficult to trust that He will provide for you?

RESOURCES

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