

January 24/25, 2004

LifeGroup Discussion Questions
Jesus' Motive for Giving
Matthew 6:19-34
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. What has been your experience related to giving of your finances to God? In other words, share your own stewardship testimony. If you don't give, what has been the struggle?
2. Do you believe God honors or rewards those who give to Him? What has been your experience?

Bible Study

1. Read Matthew 6:19-24. Who do we store up treasures in heaven for, according to Jesus? Why?
2. What is the problem with storing up treasures on earth according to this text?

How does this relate to Jesus' discussion about worry in 6:25-34?

3. The "prosperity gospel" is simply a consumer theology that uses God to seek to advance in the value system of the world. It is attempting to use God to store up treasures on earth. However, in our desire to avoid this false gospel, we sometimes deny the fact that God says when we give we get. Read the following passages and notice the emphasis on getting in return for giving.

Matthew 19:16-30. (notice vs. 21, 29)

Luke 6:38

Luke 12:33,34

2 Cor. 9:6-15

4. Often Christians say, "We don't give to get." However, the biblical writers seem to believe we should be motivated by the fact that when we give we receive in return. We receive eternal spiritual blessings for sure, but Jesus is clearly telling the disciples they will receive 100 fold (10,000%) **and** eternal life. What they gained both on earth and heaven was certainly more than they gave up.

Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34 would certainly imply God gives back what we need to take care of the necessities of life. With this in mind, what is the source of worry according to Jesus?

What is the solution to worry?

5. While we often refer to giving as “sacrifice,” Jesus’ teaching implies more the idea of investment. When you go to a foreign country you must exchange your money to a currency that is of value in that country. Jesus’ teaching is to exchange the currency of this world for one that has value in heaven. We do this by giving to God.

Read Matthew 16:24,25. Exchange the word “money” for “life” in verse 25. Does this seem to accurately capture what Jesus is saying in Matthew 6?

6. In light of Jesus’ teaching, what should be our strategy to have treasure in heaven?

How does this affect the focus of our hearts according to Jesus?

Application

1. Practically speaking, the only investment that is going to last is that which is stored up in heaven. Therefore, what I keep I lose and what I give I have. Do you believe Jesus is telling the truth?
2. If Jesus is telling the truth, then the goal should be to send everything ahead to heaven we possibly can. What will need to change in your life for this to happen?
3. What are some practical steps you can take to store up treasures in heaven?
4. If you would like help or counsel in how to steward your resources to store up treasures in heaven, you can contact Pastor Brad Brestel at LBC. This includes debt management, budgeting, business advice, investment advice, gift of giving resourcing, or unique giving such as stocks, bonds, real estate, or any type of property.
5. Pray that everyone at LBC would get on board for this project and choose to store up for themselves treasures in heaven.