

The Generous Life

The Bible, Scripture has a tremendous amount to say about money or material possessions. Sixteen of thirty-eight parables of Jesus deal with money. One out of every ten verses in the New Testament deals with that subject. Scripture has 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but over 2000 verses about money.

This is **obviously** important, but why?

- Read **Matthew 6:19-21**

Heart Focused on Heaven or on Earth?

Throughout scripture the heart refers to the centre of a person's being, their emotions, reason and will. The heart is what drives us, who your heart belongs determines how and where you go.

With regards your treasures how do these reflect your heart?

Do you believe you need to change the focus of you heart? How do you propose doing this?

- Read **Matthew 6: 22-23**

What is your eye focused on? Do you have single or double vision?

The "eye" is similar to the "heart" in Jewish literature. Notice one eye in this version not eyes - singular or single vision focussed and loyal to one direction of travel; good eye loyal and focussed on God and his ways; a healthy eye all the body full of light. **A good eye is generous and sees ways to be generous.**

What are our eyes focused on?

Do you have single or double vision?

- Read **Matthew 6: 24**

One or Two Masters

Now Jesus is not talking about having two jobs and being an employee and serving two bosses, He's referring to being a **slave!** Jesus' is not condoning slavery; He's using it as a reference.

Who are you serving?

Money can take absolute control of our lives. It makes false promises of success, power, fame, status, security, control and whatever we want to buy. You may say, "But I have control of my money," my reply would be as soon as you think you have control of your money, your money has control of you. **It's not your money to control.** Give it to God, use His budget, use His financial advice.

Why do you think it's bad for us to think we control money?

- Read **Matthew 6:25 – 34**

Don't Worry, Be Content

Jesus tells His listeners not to worry about life, what to eat and drink, or the body and what to wear (Matthew 6:25). We cannot add a single hour to our life by worrying (Matthew 6:27), yet how many of us worry about our life?

Do you worry about things you have no influence over? How can you change this?

Jesus frees us from the false sense of security that money and possessions have on us. It is God who knows what we need, and He will take care of us when we trust Him.

How do you feel about this statement?

Further Questions

1. When you were growing up, how would you describe your family's view toward money?
2. What was your family's attitude toward generosity?
3. Who is the most generous person you know?
4. Who has blessed you by their generosity?
5. How would you describe where you are today on the journey toward generosity?
6. How big of a priority is it for you and what are some barriers to being more generous?
7. "Generosity works." Brainstorm a list of ways that generosity makes for a richer, better life.
8. If we were to look at your life in the past, where have you been tempted to follow the world's thinking about money?
9. Are you tempted to believe and behave as though money will bring security, significance, purpose, or happiness?