

## The Best Treasure

Matt. 6: 19-21 Do not lay up treasure for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Is it wrong to save money? Is it wrong to have a savings or retirement account? No. In fact, Prov. 6:6 tells us to consider the ant and be wise. The ant gathers now for later. In fact, Jesus himself had a moneybag, kept by Judas. So what is Jesus talking about when He says not to lay up treasure for ourselves on earth?

He is describing a contrast. It is someone that ONLY lays up treasure on earth and does not lay up treasure in heaven. It is possible to do both if you save with a generous heart and an open hand.

We should always be willing to give what we save when God says to give it. If we are unable or unwilling to do so, that's when we know we are being controlled by our possessions, and we are forfeiting our rewards in heaven.

An example would be the rich young ruler. Jesus told him to sell his possessions and give them to the poor, and he would have treasure in heaven (Matt. 19: 21). He was unable or unwilling to obey Jesus because of his wealth. It controlled him.

So how do we lay up treasure in heaven?

The parallel passage is in Luke 12. In verse 33 we are told that when we sell what we have and give to the poor, we provide ourselves treasure in heaven. This is contrasted by the rich fool in verses 16-21. He laid up treasure for himself, but was not rich towards God.

We should be glad and excited to give what we have to bless others.

The Kingdom of God is like treasure hidden in a field, or a pearl of great price. When someone found it he sold all he had to obtain it (Matt. 13: 44-45).

Would you sell your house and your car if you could use the money to obtain the Hope Diamond? You should, because the value of the Hope Diamond is about 350 million dollars!

How much more should we be willing to give what we have in this life to gain the true riches? It's all about perspective on what is most valuable.

Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20: 35). Being generous does not require having a lot, but it requires loving a lot, starting with loving God a lot. Being willing to sow our time, talent and treasure is how we lay up treasure in heaven.

Can our stewardship on earth determine our rewards in heaven?

Luke 19: 12-26

According to this passage, the way we invest our God-given resources now, as good stewards, will determine our reward and status in heaven. And those who did not properly use what God gave them will lose even what they have.

Do you have a plan for your money? If so, what is it? Is it just to have it? To make it? To buy nice things with it? If your plan for your money is only or mainly focused on yourself, God will blow on it and judge us for our love of money.

Haggai 1: 3-11

There are times when there's not enough, because we may be under the judgment of God for not putting Him first with it. This was an example of that. They never had enough, and the problem was their self-indulgence.

Everything we've been given in this life is a test of our stewardship. We should have a plan on using what we've been given to sow first into the

Kingdom of God. If you can prayerfully find a specific assignment for your money, to give towards the vision of a church or ministry, give your money an assignment. God will bless the work and bless you as well, in this life and the life to come.

Mark 10: 28-30

What we give for the gospel's sake now will result in blessing now and in the age to come. This passage shows us that it's not only money we can give, but our lives as well.

There are practical things we can begin doing. Here are some examples.

- **Build generosity into your budget** – start budgeting for giving and start looking to [give to others](#) and those in need. Consider opening a bank account where you put money aside just for giving.
- **Give time and money to local shelters** – the Boys and Girls clubs are in desperate need of volunteers to come and spend time with disadvantaged youth. That's one out of hundreds of organizations that need help.
- **Have a garage sale or [sell stuff on eBay](#)** – *and give the proceeds away to a hurting family!*
- **Adopt an orphan or become a foster parent** – there are so many kids that need good structure and parents who love them.

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