

## A Rewarding Life, Lesson 6, May 3, 2020

- This is God's policy: **Whatever we give God on earth, He will more than give back to us in Heaven**
- 1. We are going to be exploring what Jesus said about how to take temporary things like money and possessions and make them count in eternity.**
    - What did Jesus really teach about money and possessions?
    - **Mt. 19:21** Peter asks the obvious question: **V. 27** –Two things Jesus doesn't say:
      1. Doesn't scold him for his self-interest.
      2. Doesn't say, "I actually wasn't really serious about treasure in Heaven."
    - **VV. 28-29** -- 100-fold = 10,000% return!!! Would you call that a wise investment???
  - 2. Mt. 6:19-20 Let's see if we can learn more about what Jesus had to say about treasure.**
    - you've probably heard it taught as saying that this means, "spiritual pursuits are more important than earthly ones."
    - While that is general application from this passage, it's not the specific.
    - Clearly, Jesus is talking about actual treasure here: In the first phrase He's clearly speaking of actual treasure why wouldn't He be in second?
    - Why would we think that the eternal treasure Jesus spoke would anything other than real and highly desirable?
      - Jesus shatters at least 3 misconceptions we may have about treasure:
        1. What should you do with it? "Lay Up" = is in the imperative, that is, He's not making a suggestion here but a commandment that is to be complied with.
        2. Who you should lay it up for – "yourselves" – If you don't lay-up treasure for yourself, no one can do it for you.
      - Remember, though you are laying up for yourself, you accomplish that by serving others.
      - God does not reward selfishness but selflessness.
      - 3. Where you should lay it up – "in Heaven" -- Location does matter!!!
  - 3. How do we store up treasure in Heaven? The only way to do it is to transfer it from here to there.**
    - Think of it as God's moving plan. = You're in the process of moving you've have a residence bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus in Heaven. It is just a matter of time before you move there.
    - In the meantime, you would be wise to move more and more of your things on ahead of you to your permanent home.
    - **Follow the principle: We stay behind with the essentials --- but the real goods, if we want them to retain their value throughout eternity, must be sent ahead.**
    - Jesus explained His moving plan in Lk. 12:33
    - Does this mean we shouldn't save for retirement? No! "Go to the Ant"
    - Does this mean we shouldn't own a home, have a savings account, or leave an inheritance to our children? No! "He who does not provide for his own is worse than an unbeliever"
    - But this verse clearly shows the link between and action regarding treasure on earth and the result of that action in heaven.
    - **Do you want to store up treasure in heaven? Then surrender your treasure to God's priorities here. I Tim. 6:18-19**
  - 4. Three things to do to get your treasure into the motion of God's moving plan**
    1. "What treasure has God given me?" -- God is asking you to be faithful (primary requirement of a steward)
      - Faithfulness is evaluated on the bases of potential-- What is faithful for me will not be considered faithfulness for you.
    2. "What is God asking me to do with my treasure?" – After giving in support of the ministry of your church, ask God where He would have you give beyond that.
      - What are God's priorities? Seek and save the lost, disciple and send out the saved
    3. Beware of the Dark side of your treasure -- Lk. 16:13 Serve God with your treasure or serve your treasure as your God.