

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS

Mat 6:19-21 NIV - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

DESCRIPTION

Jesus was not afraid to talk about money. In fact, He said that how we spend can reveal what we love, prioritize, and esteem as important. How we handle our finances can also be an indication of how much we truly trust God's ability or desire to provide for us and how much we truly involve Him in our daily lives.

At times, our spending might be heavy in a certain category because we are obeying God's will. But at other times, we have given high priority to something that God does not value as highly as we do. All the same, where our treasure is reveals where our heart is.

The practice of Where Your Treasure Is examines our spending to shed light on how we are using our money and if it accurately represents our heart for God.

CONSIDERATIONS

What has been your experience with money? Did you grow up rich or poor? How has your financial life changed over the years?

What challenges you most about the subject of money? What "issues" do you have about it?

How involved do you think God wants to be in your finances? How involved do you want Him to be?

PRAYER

Father, I want my heart to be with you in every aspect of my life. Show me where my treasure is and how it is a reflection of the state of my heart towards you. Help me to align my heart and my treasure with your will and purposes. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PURPOSE:

To grow in trusting God in our finances.

To discern and align our priorities with God and His purposes.

To turn our financial decisions over to God.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Repentance from self-reliance and the love of money.

Proper stewardship of the resources God has given us.

Increased trust in God's provision for our needs.

PRACTICE



1. Look back on the past week (or month) of your spending and prepare an outline of what you spent money on.
 - If this information is not readily available, journal or write down everything you spend for one week.
 - If you had any major and/or irregular expenses in the past week (or month) do not include them in this exercise.
2. Group your spending into major categories.
 - For example, categories might be Food, Household Bills, Education, Debt Repayment, Offerings, Ministry, etc.
3. Where is your treasure?
 - Calculate your total spending in each category.
 - Put the categories in order from most spending to least.
 - What category did you spend the most in? The least?
4. Where is your heart?
 - What does this snapshot of your spending reveal about what is important to you?
 - Do you feel that this spending snapshot demonstrates how important God is to you? His Kingdom? Ministry?
 - Do you think that this spending snapshot accurately represents the season or stage of life you are in? How so?
 - If a stranger were to look at your spending, what would they see as your highest priority? Would that be an accurate assessment of your heart? Why or why not?
 - How much did you involve God in your spending?
5. Ask God to help you align your spending with His will for you
 - Ask Him if there to reveal any "obligations" you have entangled yourself with that were not His will for you. Ask Him to begin to show you how to untangle it.
 - Repent from the ways you have not involved God in your spending or justified your spending apart from Him.
 - Receive the Lord's forgiveness. Listen to His voice. Do what He says.

NOTES: _____

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 13:22

1 Timothy 6:9-10

Luke 16:13

Luke 12:13-21

Matthew 7:9-11

Philippians
4:11-19

Hebrews 13:5

Proverbs 23:4

Proverbs 19:17

Proverbs 28:27