



Unit .23

Session .04

Jesus Teaches About Treasure

Scripture



Luke 12:15-28,31-34

15 He then told them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one’s life is not in the abundance of his possessions.” **16** Then he told them a parable: “A rich man’s land was very productive. **17** He thought to himself, ‘What should I do, since I don’t have anywhere to store my crops?’ **18** I will do this,’ he said. ‘I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there. **19** Then I’ll say to myself, ‘You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.’” **20** “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?’ **21** “That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” **22** Then he said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear. **23** For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. **24** Consider the ravens: They

don’t sow or reap; they don’t have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than the birds? **25** Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? **26** If then you’re not able to do even a little thing, why worry about the rest? **27** “Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. **28** If that’s how God clothes the grass, which is in the field today and is thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will he do for you—you of little faith? ... **31** “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you. **32** Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won’t grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Why do you think Jesus would take the time to warn His listeners about loving wealth and possessions? What are the dangers of doing so?

How can we be sure that we are using our treasures for God's glory and not our own?



99 Essential Doctrines

Stewardship

God's intention for mankind is that we serve Him as faithful stewards of His creation (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 4:1-2). We are to invest the time, talents, and material possessions God has given us for His kingdom work (Matt. 25:14-29), knowing that God is the true owner of all we have, and that our true treasure is found not on earth but in heaven (Matt. 6:19,21; Luke 12:16-21). Motivated by God's generosity to us made most clear in the gospel, we are to give God the best of what we have (Prov. 3:9), regularly (1 Cor. 16:2), sacrificially (Matt. 12:41-44), humbly (Matt. 6:1-4), and cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:6-7), praying that God may be glorified in our stewardship of His provisions.

Main Point

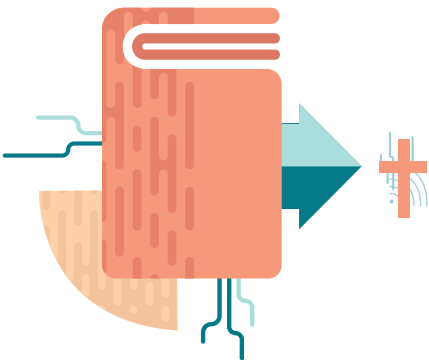
Jesus teaches on what it means to live generously.

What do you typically worry about? What are the circumstances that usually accompany your anxiety and worry?

How should the truth of God's goodness and fatherhood help control and redirect the worry in our lives?

Christ Connection

When Jesus taught His disciples about money and possessions, He warned about hoarding treasure instead of living with generosity. Jesus left His place of splendor with the Father and lived on earth without wealth so that He could complete the work the Father had given Him to do: establish the kingdom.



Why is it important that we treasure God above all earthly treasures?

In Defense



“But one of the greatest things about Jesus is that he does not want his people to be anxious. The main point of today’s text is that God does not secure his kingship by cultivating anxiety. On the contrary, the aim of God’s kingship is to free us from anxiety. God doesn’t need to keep us anxious in order to establish his power and superiority. Instead, he exalts his power and superiority by working to take away our anxiety. If you are born again, if you have turned away from sin and are following Jesus as Lord in the obedience of faith, his will for you this morning is that you not be anxious about anything, but that you enjoy deep serenity and peace and security. Jesus spoke these words in Matthew 6:24–34 precisely for you — to help you overcome whatever is making you anxious this morning.”— John Piper. “Do Not Be Anxious About Your Life,” *Desiring God*, December 13, 2019, <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/do-not-be-anxious-about-your-life>.



Head

What is Jesus' purpose in mentioning the ravens in verse 24? What is He teaching us about worry here?

How can we balance the idea of trusting in God to meet all of our needs (not worrying) with our calling by God to work hard in everything we do?



Heart

Is it true that the more money you have the less worry you have? Explain.

How do these verses challenge you when it comes to worrying about things in your life?



Hands

What insight can we gain in our understanding of treasure based on these passages?

How does our heavenly treasure influence the way we see and handle our earthly treasures?

Daily Devotions



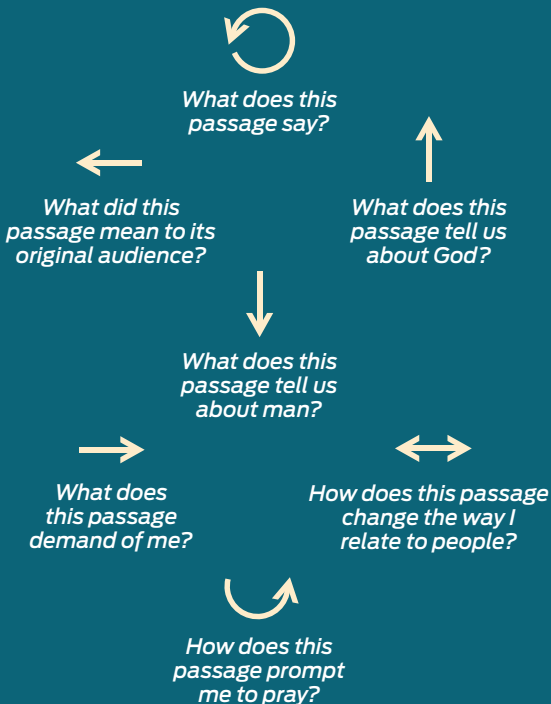
Day 1

Luke 12:13-21

In this passage, a young man, acting more like a little kid, asks a question regarding a dispute between siblings. In short, he wants Jesus to tell his brother to share his inheritance. No doubt, if you had asked this young man what kind of person his brother was, he would have described him as incredibly greedy. Of course the irony here is that Jesus can see right through this young man and knows that greed is what motivates his own request.

We are usually very good at seeing the greed in others, but less accurate when judging the greed in our own hearts. Here, Jesus asks us an important question: Are we giving everything to build for today or do we have our eyes on eternity?

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



How can we be sure we are storing up heavenly treasures instead of earthly ones?

Luke 12:22-30

Money can buy us a lot of things, but contrary to popular belief, it cannot buy us freedom from worry. No matter how much material wealth we have, we are still susceptible to concern about our futures. We worry about acquiring money and keeping money, about spending it wisely and treating ourselves, and about how much treasure we have or how little.

Jesus' words here remind us that our concerns over what we will eat and what we will wear are misplaced. He is not encouraging us toward idleness, but, rather, reminding us that He is the one who blesses the very labors we are prone to fret over. The birds Jesus speaks of don't know the meaning of worry; they work in the way that God has made them to work, toiling without concern for their future, because they don't know anything but to trust the processes that God has set up for their good. The same goes for the lilies of the field.

What does our worry say about where our trust truly lies?

Luke 12:31-34

In this passage, Jesus reminds us that God is our Father, not an austere miser in the sky waiting to withhold good things from us. We can trust Him to do right by us and by our earthly treasure because He has stored up eternal treasures for us.

In fact, the greatest treasure is the person speaking to us in this passage. Jesus, the Son of God, is the most precious gift that God has ever given His children. There was no amount of toil we could have given to earn Him, no amount of money we could have paid to profit from Him. He has been given to us completely free of charge. He is the one who paid for us, by laying down His invaluable life on the cross.

It is because of this gift that we can view our own treasure as an added blessing, and not as the source of our value. We can give of it freely because the gift of the greatest worth has already been given to us in Jesus.

What is the treasure that can never be destroyed and why does it deserve our highest affection?

Matthew 6:1-4

Jesus' words about earthly treasure don't just extend to the monetary. We can treasure so many other things on earth, particularly the praise of others. Even in giving of our monetary treasure, we can fill ourselves with pride.

Thus, Jesus warns us in Matthew that when we give to the poor, we should not be giving to our own overblown sense of self-importance at the same time. If need be, we should give completely in secret, skirting the praise of others in an effort to give completely for the glory of God, and not for the glory that we can garner from our fellow man.

God cares that we give, but more than that, He cares about the heart behind our giving.

How can we ensure that our hearts are right before God when we give?

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus teaches us here that our giving isn't measured in mere sums. A rich man can give to God in amounts that would make most of us faint just to think about, but his gift might not come from a generous heart. A poor widow can give just a penny, and her gift might come from a place of full reliance on God.

Through her offering, this widow showed that God was truly her treasure; she gave out of her lack in complete trust that He would supply her earthly needs. When we give, God is not concerned with an exact percentage of our wealth so much as He is concerned with the heart behind our giving. Are we giving out of abundance, keeping back a heart of submission to God, or are we giving out of our lack, realizing that we should entrust ourselves to God just as the widow did in this passage?

How can we be sure that our giving is rightly motivated?