

Matthew 6:19-24

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.



"Aha" moment that reveals our true Nature

Seeking something more <u>VALUABLE</u>

"What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ." Phil 3:8

♦ Learn what to <u>KEEP</u> and what to <u>RELEASE</u>

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."

Matthew 6:19

- P I give to... (help others, relieve hunger, share the Gospel, etc.)
- **E** I give to change... (the world, me, attitudes, etc.)
- **G** I give because God... (loves me, provides for me, cares)

CONTAGIOUS GENEROSITY

Natural wisdom says, "I'll give when all my needs are met." "I can't afford to give" or "I'll give when I've got some surplus." God's wisdom says, "Give now, even in your time of need, and watch me work!" The Bible teaches that when we give in faith (trusting totally in God) even when we are in a time of need, his miraculous provision begins to come our way. He only asks us to give of what we already have (not what we don't have) and as we go first, in faith and obedience, we release his blessing into our life. This principle is taught explicitly throughout the Bible and there are also many illustrations of people who experienced the miracle of giving and then God breaking through to meet their need (see Gen.26:1, 12-14. 1 Kings 17. Luke 21:1-4. 2 Cor. 8:1-7).

Generosity has nothing to do with the 'amount' given. It has everything to do with the 'attitude' in which something is given. The Bible has much to say about the blessings that come through generous giving (Ps.112:5. Prov.3:9-10; 11:24-25; 19:17. Luke 6:38. 2 Cor. 9:6). When we give we are blessed too! Again, this should not be our motive in giving but it should be our expectation! We give because we want to and love to (not have to). As a by-product, we always receive in the process. If you sow, you will reap! If you don't sow, you won't reap. This is a law and a principle that God has ordained.

Without God's help we will easily succumb to materialism, become prisoners to our debt, and be unable to experience the joy of generous giving. With God's help we can curb the spirit of greed that so pervades our society, live within our means, and have a generous spirit of giving. As a church, let's seek to excel in everything, including giving (2 Cor.8:7). How would you describe yourself? Are you a non-giver, a giver, or a

generous giver? Make a choice to give more generously ... in every area of our life.