



Your
story

matters.

MAY 18, 2025

Message Notes



Taking Stock: How to Move from Weary to Wise **"Why Generosity Is More Important than We Think"** **(Part 2)**

Pastor Tom Lundeen | May 18, 2025

What most people don't realize is that some of the _____ financial principles aren't found on social media or Wall Street, but in the Scriptures.

Note 1 Timothy 6:10

So this series is about us taking stock of how we handle money and how God's truth can help us experience greater _____ health.

Generosity is counter-culture because we live in a _____ - driven, materialistic, and self-centered world.

The reality is none of us are born _____.

7. Because What Jesus Said in Matthew _____ Is Really True

Note Matthew 6:21

...whatever our treasure is determines the direction/_____ of our life.

- A.** _____ (note **Luke 19:1-8**) - what's the _____ evidence of Zacchaeus' changed heart? _____ (note **Luke 19:9-10**). Money is the _____ on a person's spiritual condition. It's an _____ to our character. It's a reflection of our heart.
- B.** The _____ Widow (note **Luke 21:1-2**) - giving is always a personal choice/action, but it's never _____. Whether we're comfortable with it or not, Jesus watches what we do with _____ money (God owns it all), including giving. Jesus uses heavenly accounting _____ to determine the actual value of a gift (note **Luke 21:3-4**).

- C.** _____ and Sapphira (note **Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-2**) - people can be _____ and are all the time. But no one can ever _____ God (note **Acts 5:3-11**). Hypocrisy and lying, but how was it manifested? _____. Generosity must always come from the heart and be completely _____ (note **Acts 5:4; 2 Corinthians 9:7**). Ultimately it was their love of money that brought about God's immediate _____. We get so used to God's _____ that we call God's justice injustice.
- D.** The _____ Young Ruler (note **Mark 10:17-20**) - Jesus isn't telling this person that giving away your money gets you to _____ (note **John 6:29; Ephesians 2:8-9**). He's helping him see he is a _____ and needs forgiveness (note **Exodus 20:17**). Jesus knew where his treasure was and was _____ him to make Jesus his treasure. But... (note **Mark 10:22**).

So let's take stock:

- What Jesus tells us in **Matthew 6:21** is the reason He talked _____ about money and possessions.
- Luther saw God loving us so much that when we realize this, we will naturally want to give as God gives. As he put it, "If I have _____ someone's heart, I will soon have his purse too."
- So what's your treasure that's leading your life direction?

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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FREE Financial Course Available Through May 31

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**Small Group Discussion &
Personal Guides on the back**

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What is one item you own that you really should throw away, but probably never will?

1. Read **Matthew 6:21**. Pastor Tom reiterated that our hearts always follow what we treasure most. Compare and contrast Zacchaeus' response to Jesus' call (**Luke 19:1-10**) with that of the rich young ruler (**Mark 10:17-22**). Where was each man's heart in the end and how does that compare with where your heart is?
2. Read **Luke 21:1-4**. In the story, Jesus describes an entirely new value system when He says that, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them." If the amount you give is not how God grades generosity, then what needs to change for you to live out this new Jesus-value in your life?
3. Read **Acts 4:32-5:11**. The story of Ananias and Sapphira is still just as shocking to our ears today as it was when it happened. Why do you think God was so offended by faux generosity? How can you ensure that your own generosity is authentic both in your heart and in public?
4. Read **2 Corinthians 9:7**. What does being a cheerful giver look like in your life and family?
5. How does your generosity impact getting to heaven? (**John 6:29**; **Ephesians 2:8-9**) Trick question, it doesn't! So, what do these passages say is the way to God and then how does the tension between Jesus as your Treasure, and money as your treasure play out in your life?

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day One: Mark 5; Psalm 122

Day Two: Numbers 5; Proverbs 29

Day Three: 2 Corinthians 12; 1 Kings 18

Day Four: Revelation 14; Lamentations 4

Day Five: Song of Songs 6; Acts 10

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



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Note **1 Timothy 6:10**

So this series is about us taking stock of how we handle money and how God's truth can help us experience greater financial health.

Generosity is counter-culture because we live in a consumer-driven, materialistic, and self-centered world.

The reality is none of us are born generous.

7. Because What Jesus Said in Matthew 6:21 Is Really True

Note **Matthew 6:21**

...whatever our treasure is determines the direction/pathway of our life.

- A.** Zacchaeus (note **Luke 19:1-8**) - what's the first evidence of Zacchaeus' changed heart? Financial (note **Luke 19:9-10**). Money is the spotlight on a person's spiritual condition. It's an index to our character. It's a reflection of our heart.
- B.** The Poor Widow (note **Luke 21:1-2**) - giving is always a personal choice/action, but it's never private. Whether we're comfortable with it or not, Jesus watches what we do with His money (God owns it all), including giving. Jesus uses heavenly accounting formulas to determine the actual value of a gift (note **Luke 21:3-4**).

- C.** Ananias and Sapphira (note **Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-2**) - people can be fooled and are all the time. But no one can ever con God (note **Acts 5:3-11**). Hypocrisy and lying, but how was it manifested? Finances. Generosity must always come from the heart and be completely voluntary (note **Acts 5:4; 2 Corinthians 9:7**). Ultimately it was their love of money that brought about God's immediate justice. We get so used to God's grace that we call God's justice injustice.
- D.** The Rich Young Ruler (note **Mark 10:17-20**) - Jesus isn't telling this person that giving away your money gets you to heaven (note **John 6:29; Ephesians 2:8-9**). He's helping him see he is a sinner and needs forgiveness (note **Exodus 20:17**). Jesus knew where his treasure was and was inviting him to make Jesus his treasure. But...(note **Mark 10:22**).

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