

STEWARDSHIP | WEEK 4

Eternity!

"If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life."

—BILLY GRAHAM

Read | **Matthew 6:19-21**

- What stands out to you? What was new this time through that passage?

Money and the heart are intimately connected. In fact, money is an amplifier of the heart. In Matt. 6:21, Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." But how does that play out? Is it the heart that goes first or the money first and then the heart follows? I'm not sure. Maybe it's both. But it is amazing to me how investing in a company can make my heart flutter to numbers on a stock ticker. If that happens in my situation with a stock purchase, how much more might it affect more important connections? How does money impact my kids? My relationships? My view of myself? My time?

The issues around money aren't merely math related. The issues surrounding money are soul-level, heart-level, and desire-level issues.

Look at verse 20 again: "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Imagine what they would look like one day! You get to heaven and find true wealth that doesn't fade, doesn't spoil, and doesn't decrease in value. And what we do here with our money impacts there—how cool is that? Jim Elliot wisely said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." That sounds an awful lot like Matthew 6:20: "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

Full-life stewardship is all-encompassing, daily surrender. It's living here and now, by the light of "when we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun."

Think | 1 Corinthians 13 says, “If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.” It doesn’t say “If I give without love, I gain but only half what I would have otherwise.” Let our loving be great!

- In light of what these verses say, what has God been saying to you?
- What might He be calling you to do?

Pray |

- Pray that God would allow for you to trust in the Lord with your finances and resources.
- Pray that God would give you a biblical understanding of wealth and possessions.
- Pray that God would allow for you to find opportunities to bless others with your finances.

Do | In light of the feedback you received from last week’s challenge, develop an action plan for how you are going to guard against the love of money and grow in generosity. Set a reminder on your phone or on your calendar to reflect upon your plan in the next two months.