

Sermon: Giving From a Generous Heart.
Series: Foundations of Faith.

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-24.
Date: January 12, 2025

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Generosity is a worship issue. Why? Because no one can serve two masters (v.24). Do you agree that our finances/giving/generosity reveal who or what we worship? In what way does your personal expenditures and level of generosity reveal who/what you worship?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Jesus warned against “serving mammon.” In our culture we might say don’t serve consumerism. Can you identify where you are susceptible to being enslaved by consumerism – the accumulation of possessions?

c) Look at verse 19 again. When Jesus speaks of “treasure on earth” he means the necessities of food and clothing (compare to 6:25). Do you worry about necessities? Are there things that you might classify as necessities that are actually just wants/desires?

b) What earthly treasures are you storing up? What deeper desires of your heart do these earthly treasures expose? For example: My expensive clothes reveal a deeper desire to be respected.

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How does knowing that Jesus satisfies our deeper desires allow us to reject consumerism, greed, and selfishness?

b) Jesus tells us to lay up eternal treasure in heaven. This means choosing to live in loving self-sacrifice for others and the sake of the gospel. Can you identify any ways that your desire for possessions is getting in the way of your love for people?

APPLICATION

a) Consider these practical suggestions/questions together:

- Contribute, don’t just consume – At home or in church do you just consume or do you also contribute?
- Simplify – What are some ways you might simplify your lifestyle this year? Downsizing? Decluttering? Donating? Budgeting? Get out of debt so you can share more?
- Give financially to your church first – Do you give regularly to the local church from faith and a cheerful heart? If not, why not?
- Share – Do you see yourself as a steward rather than an owner? How can you share your home? Vehicles? Time? Possessions? Money? Be specific?

PRAYER

- Thank God for his great generosity in your life.
- Confess ways that you have served “mammon” (money/possessions) over God.
- Thank Jesus for satisfying your needs and desires by his union with you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to grow a generous heart within you as you practice generosity with others.