

TREASURE AND TRUST

I. [Matthew 6:19-24](#) [Luke 12:32-34](#) [Matthew 6:25-34](#)

A. [Matthew 6:19-24](#) (ESV) are Jesus' words once again from the Sermon on the Mount. 19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys 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. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.

B. In season 4 of *Little House of the Prairie*, Charles Ingalls discovers that a rich eccentric uncle has left him his inheritance. The news alone changes people. Folks in Walnut Grove start treating the Ingalls' family differently. Mrs. Oleson begins to sell stuff to Charles on credit and their debt mounts. Soon Charles learns the only thing he'll actually receive is a small chest. When it's time to open it, it's full of money; Confederate money! Having placed liens on their property, Mrs. Oleson arranges for the Ingalls' property & possessions to be sold at auction. But surprisingly, only the key town's people show up and they bid mere pennies to buy everything. Harriet is furious! Charles' friends enter his cabin and break the news that they've bought everything he owns for 6 cents. Charles is angry at first. Then they smile and sell back everything to Charles for 6 pennies. Just as that Confederate money proved worthless, our currency here will prove worthless in Heaven. Hearses never enter cemeteries pulling U-Haul trailers!

C. Randy Alcorn, author of *Heaven*, and 50-some other books, writes: King Tut, the boy king, was only 17 when he died. He was buried with solid gold chariots and thousands of golden artifacts. His gold coffin was found within gold tombs within gold tombs within gold tombs. The burial site was filled with tons of gold. The Egyptians believed in an afterlife--one where they could take earthly treasures. But all the treasures intended for King Tut's eternal enjoyment stayed right where they were until Howard Carter discovered the burial chamber in 1922. They hadn't been touched for more than three thousand years. 1 Timothy 6:7 says, "*For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*"

D. So how do you lay up treasure in Heaven? What can you produce here that will have value there? Here, if you're frugal (*or stingy*) you'll likely increase the size of your bank account. But if you're generous--you seek to meet the needs of the needy--your assets here may be much less, but in heaven they'll be far more! [Luke 12:32-34](#) (ESV) records Jesus' words in another setting: 32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

E. John Piper comments, "Evidently, there are two ways to live: you can live with a view to accumulating valuable things on earth, or you can live with a view to accumulating

valuable things in heaven. Jesus says: the mark of a Christian is that his eyes are on heaven and he measures all his behavior by what effect it will have on heaven--everlasting joy with God." **George Mueller**, known as The Father to 10,000 orphans, said, "God judges what we give by what we keep."

F. Besides being generous now, a week ago I talked about the fruit of obedience, how sometimes we don't see the outcomes of that here. But what about There? And what about when you sow the priceless Gospel of Jesus Christ into someone's life and the Spirit of God quickens and makes them alive in Christ; won't seeing them on the Other Side prove to be a priceless treasure?!

G. Jesus died for all our sins. All of them! Some sins are grossly evident: pride & selfishness; unfaithfulness; immorality; thievery; envy; jealousy; coveting; lying; cheating; anger & violence; slander & gossip; laziness; stubbornness; unforgiveness; self-righteousness. But sometimes lurking way down deep inside is another sin: distrust in God. Sometimes we shift our trust to what we possess in earthly treasure (*all of which came from God in the first place*) and transfer our trust away from God. We also sometimes assume what's been given to us is exclusively for us. But what God often gives isn't meant for keeping but for distributing. Let's have an either or quiz: The more I trust in God, the more likely it is I'll be (A) *stingy* or (B) *generous*? The more I trust in God, the more likely it is I'll be (A) *fearful* or (B) *bold & courageous*? But here's hope: Jesus died for all the lack of trust festering in your heart. So, do business! Be forgiven! Be set free!

H. Now some of you deeply desire to be more giving. But consider what you have that may actually exceed things of monetary value. Give love. Sow encouragement. Help others where you can. Be a Blessing to others. And trust God for what you need...

I. We began with Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount. Let's conclude with more of the same. Matthew 6:25-34 (ESV) **25 Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? **28** And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? **31** Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

*** Close with a Song...**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

Matthew 6:19-24 (ESV)

19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys 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. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, **23** but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **24** No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.

Luke 12:32-34 (ESV)

32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

King Tut's Treasure

By Randy Alcorn

Tutankhamen, the boy king, was only 17 when he died. He was buried with solid gold chariots and thousands of golden artifacts. His gold coffin was found within gold tombs within gold tombs within gold tombs. The burial site was filled with tons of gold. The Egyptians believed in an afterlife--one where they could take earthly treasures. But all the treasures intended for King Tut's eternal enjoyment stayed right where they were until Howard Carter discovered the burial chamber in 1922. They hadn't been touched for more than three thousand years. 1 Timothy 6:7 says, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

Quote by John Piper

"Evidently, there are two ways to live: you can live with a view to accumulating valuable things on earth, or you can live with a view to accumulating valuable things in heaven. Jesus says: the mark of a Christian is that his eyes are on heaven and he measures all his behavior by what effect it will have on heaven--everlasting joy with God... But let's be more specific. If Jesus means "devote your life to accumulating treasure in heaven"--which I take to mean increasing your joy in God in heaven--what is the main thing He has in mind that we should do now? My judgment from the context would be that it is giving rather than accumulating. If laying up treasures in heaven is the opposite of laying up treasures on earth, then probably laying up treasures in heaven will be not laying up treasures on earth but giving them away in ways that magnify the worth of Jesus."

- John Piper, *"Don't Be Anxious, Lay Up Treasure in Heaven,"* - March 2, 2003.

Quote by George Mueller

"God judges what we give by what we keep."

Matthew 6:25-34 (ESV)

25 Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? **28** And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? **31** Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Video Clips & Important Articles

"Generous Giver" - Vintage Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-5JowPZH-w>

George Mueller (Father of 10,000 Orphans)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCU-mfHNqCQ>

What Does the Bible Say About Giving Money? - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBuDK7bQB-4>

Giving With Eternity in Mind - Article by Randy Alcorn, Author of *Heaven*

<https://www.epm.org/resources/2010/Jan/27/giving-eternity-mind/>

Little House on the Prairie - "The Inheritance" (Full Episode)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wC-Ae5DS68I>

Bonus Stuff

Ecclesiastes 5:15 (NLT)

15 We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us.

1 Timothy 6:7 (NIV)

7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Luke 12:22-34 (ESV)

22 And He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. **23** For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. **24** Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! **25** And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? **26** If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? **27** Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **28** But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith! **29** And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. **30** For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** Instead, seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. **32** "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8** Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9** for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Quote by Martin Luther

"Riches are the least worthy gifts which God can give man, yet men toil for them day and night, and take no rest. Therefore, God frequently gives riches to foolish people to whom He gives nothing else."

Quote by David Livingstone

"I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity."

Quote by Jay Kesler

"Things are to be used and God is to be loved. We get into trouble when we begin to use God and love things."

The Archbishop's Lost Treasure

Author Unknown

Two divers found a strange treasure in the River Wear near Durham Cathedral. They found a stash of coins, medals and religious objects. To whom did this treasure belong? They were the possessions of the late Michael Ramsey, former archbishop of Canterbury. This spot in the river was very near where Ramsay served and later retired in 1974.

The genuineness of the hundreds of items has been confirmed by cathedral officials. One of the items was a gift from Pope Paul VI; others are significant archeological items. The question is, How did they get there? Some suggest the items were stolen from Ramsey. One of the divers suggested Ramsey may have thrown them in the river himself—as a symbolic offering to the people of Durham. Another suggestion is that it was a symbolic statement by Ramsey that we cannot take it with us when we die.

If Ramsey did throw the treasures in the river, we might question if that was good stewardship, but it is clear that he did not take them with him. We can't either. The only things that go with us when we die are the treasures we have laid up in heaven.

August H. Francke

In the latter part of the 17th century, German preacher August H. Francke founded an orphanage to care for the homeless children of Halle. One day when Francke desperately needed funds to carry on his work, a destitute Christian widow came to his door begging for a ducat--a gold coin. Because of his financial situation, he politely but regretfully told her he couldn't help her. Disheartened, the woman began to weep. Moved by her tears, Francke asked her to wait while he went to his room to pray. After seeking God's guidance, he felt that the Holy Spirit wanted him to change his mind. So, trusting the Lord to meet his own needs, he gave her the money. Two mornings later, he received a letter of thanks from the widow. She explained that because of his generosity she had asked the Lord to shower the orphanage with gifts. That same day Francke received 12 ducats from a wealthy lady and 2 more from a friend in Sweden. He thought he had been amply rewarded for helping the widow, but he was soon informed that the orphanage was to receive 500 gold pieces from the estate of Prince Lodewyk Van Wurtenburg. When he heard this, Francke wept in gratitude. In sacrificially providing for that needy widow, he had been enriched, not impoverished. (Author Unknown)