

A MAN AND HIS MONEY

5-18-05

"YOUR TREASURE...A MATTER OF THE HEART!"

"Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the well-springs of life" (Proverbs 4:25)

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"
(Matthew 6:21)

SUMMARY:

The Lord has graciously trusted every person with a differing amount of financial resources. It is important to recognize that God zeroes in on our 'HEART ATTITUDE' in our giving. Just as we need physical 'check-ups' for the condition of our heart, so too, we need spiritual 'check-ups'. Will you allow the One who looks into the human heart to do spiritual surgery upon you today...and every day?

NOTES:

*Have you ever realized that God looks into your very heart...in regards to your motivation, your attitude...for giving?

Look at these scriptures:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it? I the Lord search the mind and TRY THE HEART to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings." (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as a man sees; man looks on the outer appearance, but the LORD LOOKS ON THE HEART.'" (1 Samuel 16:7)

Based on Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33, Jesus offers some wise counsel in regards to our finances in relationship to our heart.

FOUR BITS OF PRACTICAL ADVICE:

*AVOID _____ 6: 19-21

*ASK _____ 6:24

*ANXIETY _____ 6:25ff.

*AIM _____ 6:33

Two Personal and Practical Thoughts:

- *Look at things from an ETERNAL POINT OF VIEW (not just an earthly one). 1 Timothy 6:7
- Let the Holy Spirit do surgery on you daily through His living Word. Hebrews 4:12

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: Do you personally struggle within your own 'heart' in relationship with finances and what you should give to the Lord and His Kingdom? Be specific.

*Why do you think that Jesus addressed this issue of 'treasures' and 'the heart' in the Sermon on the Mount?

*In what ways can you 'Guard your heart' as Solomon instructs us to do in Proverbs?

*Is there a particular area (of those four mentioned today) that you struggle with more than another?

APPLICATION:

- Commit yourself to reading passages from God's Word on a daily basis...allow the Lord to speak to you in your 'heart' about what you are 'treasuring'.
- Candidly take a heart-look at what you are currently doing for His Kingdom in your giving. What would Jesus say to you if you were to give account TODAY? Could you be stretched to do better?
- Confer with your spouse (if you are married) on the matter of finances. Are you equally-yoked in regards to what you are doing for the Lord with your 'treasures'?
- Create an environment to teach your children or grandchildren about the importance of 'giving to the Lord' from your heart!

ON YOUR OWN...

Scriptures:

1 Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Proverbs 4:25; Matthew 6:19-34; 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

Larry Burkett and Ron Blue have authored many excellent books on Money Management and Finances.