

# Lasting

**TREASURE**



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

# Offering & Tithes



# Offering TALK#3

**TITLE:** Lasting Treasure

**Scripture Passage:** Luke 12:16-21, NRSV

We will worship God with our giving in just a few moments. If you have not prepared your gift, feel free to do so now. If you have already given online, thank you for your generous gift.

Think about your closets, drawers, attics and basement for a moment. What treasure have you tucked away in the hope of using it someday for something?

During the American Civil War, money was readily printed in the Southern states. Some Southerners tucked away Confederate money, stockpiling it so they could enjoy their wealth once the war ended.

By the end of the war, however, Confederate currency wasn't worth the paper it was printed on. A simple bar of soap cost as much as 50 Confederate dollars. All the treasure people had tucked away "for later" could not be used at all.

Jesus warned us against treating our money and resources in the same way. He told the story of a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest.

"And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

What do we do when God blesses us? Are we rich toward God by giving generously to support God's mission, or do we stockpile it, building bigger barns instead of passing gifts to those who need them most?

**Today is our best opportunity to invest in what matters most – lasting treasure. Now is our chance to turn worldly wealth that fades into eternal riches we know will last.**

Today, I invite you to consider that **today** is the day for us all to give generously, so that together, we can do more to show God's love to a needy world.

# Abbreviated VERSION

**TITLE:** Lasting Treasure

**Scripture Passage:** Luke 12:16-21, NRSV

We will worship God with our giving in a few minutes, but first, I would like to share a short story with you.

During the American Civil War, many Southerners attempted to stockpile Confederate currency in hopes that after the war, they could enjoy the wealth they had tucked away.

The plan failed because, by then, the money wasn't worth the paper it was printed on.

Jesus warned us about stockpiling money and resources in similar way. He told the story of a rich man who kept building bigger barns to store plenty of goods, enough for several years. God said to the man, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

Jesus drove the point home by saying this: "So it is for those who store up treasures for themselves and aren't rich toward God."

What do we do when God blesses us? Are we rich toward God by giving generously to support God's mission, or do we build bigger barns instead of passing gifts along to those who need them most?

**Today is our best opportunity to invest in what matters most – eternal treasures. Now is our opportunity to turn worldly wealth into heavenly riches.**

Today, I invite you to consider that **today** is the day for us all to give generously, so that together, we can do more to show God's love to a needy world.

# Bullet Points

# VERSION

**TITLE:** Lasting Treasure

**Scripture Passage:** Luke 12:16-21, NRSV

- Prepare to worship God with our giving.
- During the American Civil War, people stockpiled Confederate dollars.
- Confederate dollars became almost worthless; a bar of soap cost \$50.
- Jesus warns us to guard against hoarding our resources.
- In Luke 12:16-21, Jesus tells us of a rich man who “stored up plenty of goods, enough for several years.” God said to him “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” Jesus says, “So it is for those who store up treasures for themselves and aren’t rich toward God.”
- **Today is our best opportunity to invest in what matters most – eternal treasures.**
- **Today** is the day for us all to give generously, so that together, we can do more to show God’s love to a needy world.



- Choose a way your local church puts God's resources to work to create lasting treasure instead of storing it.
- Connect this illustration with God's global interests by sharing how your church's local giving multiplies through connectional giving with The United Methodist Church.

Our **Native American Ministries Sunday** on the third Sunday after Easter reminds United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach, provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans, encourages Native Americans to consider becoming pastors and nurtures them in their journey.

<http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday>

Our **United Methodist Student Day** offering on the last Sunday in November supports scholarships and student loans for qualified United Methodist applicants. These scholarships assist students from diverse backgrounds working toward various higher education degrees at any accredited institution within the United States.

<http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/united-methodist-student-day>

"You may have students in your own congregation who've benefited from these scholarships. Take this time to highlight their achievements."