

2025 05 04 / Matthew 6:25-34, Luke 6:38
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God and Treasure

Today, let's approach treasure from a divine perspective and prepare ourselves for the choices that come with it. Today's scripture is a well-known and comforting passage that speaks of God's provision. God is all-knowing every detail of our lives, and they matter to God. God cares for all His creation, even simple living beings like wildflowers. So, how much more does He care for us, His children? In v. 33, "Jesus says that Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Seeking the Kingdom of God sounds all the most important core part to handle our life.

I'd like to explain this scripture figuratively. It compares our communication with the Lord to being in the midst of life's chaotic and turbulent times, akin to a war movie where the enemy relentlessly attacks with bombs and guns. Imagine yourself as a soldier, desperately trying to send a message for help through a radio frequency. This frequency serves as a means of connecting to the powerful central station, which provides all the necessary resources. However, there's only one correct frequency that can effectively communicate with the central station. If the frequency is incorrect, the message simply won't reach the central station. Just as we can't receive what we need during a war, we can't find the answers we seek in the midst of life's challenges. Now, I have a question for you: what does the radio frequency symbolize in this analogy?

The radio frequency is faith in Jesus and a heart and life living for the Kingdom and his righteousness. When this connection is made, all things are provided for the safety and protection of life. This means that when we have a genuine personal relationship with God, our heart and life needs are taken care of, bringing us peace of mind. Fear and anxiety vanish. This is the life aligned with the word of God.

One missing point in the analogy is that we are not alone in this struggle. My effort to connect with God is akin to my part in the war. Yes, I am present, my heart's desire, and aligned with God's word. However, there is also the assistance of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to fully rely on God. It may sound paradoxical, but it is true. We prioritize seeking the Kingdom. At the same time, we find peace and rest in God by fully relying on God. We live with effort, yet we are also lived by the Holy Spirit. This resting place brings peace. If we find rest in God, the battle is won.

Then, you can truly comprehend the Bible's teachings on finance with a clear mind. You can live fearlessly, embracing the truth. You become quite at ease in aligning your life with the Bible's principles. You experience a significant reduction in the anxiety and worry surrounding your financial matters. Let's delve deeper into these aspects.

God created you, me, and the entire universe. All belong to God—the Sun, the moon, the stars, the trees, the plants, and the rocks. In fact, **we don't own anything at all. Everything we have is on loan.** We simply use all the things given to us while we're here on Earth, as we can hear from Jesus' parables. They often begin like this: "A wealthy man distributes his servants talents." This means that everything we have are a gift from God.

What are the things you possess? Your family, your body, your breath, your brain, your thoughts, and your skills—all are gifts from God. Even your house, your car, and your bed—where you rest at night—are all God's. One day, God told me, "You have received everything from me. You do not own anything at all." I was surprised by this revelation. I had always believed, "I worked hard, so I earned it!" I had to ponder this word for a long time. And you, like me at that time, might think, "I worked hard, so I have this." Is that the case? Who gave you the intelligence, skills, and capabilities to work?

I came to realize that I don't own anything at all. Everything belongs to God. This realization gave me immense freedom. Regardless of whether I lose or earn, it doesn't belong to me. God promised that he will never leave you, nor forsake you! God will take care of everything. I only need to be a servant of the resources that God has entrusted to me. John Wesley's covenant prayer should be our prayer. I cherish it in my heart.

"I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things
 to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on Earth,
 let it be ratified in Heaven. Amen."

All are gifts from God. If you grasp this concept clearly, it raises several questions. How diligently are you caring for God's property; your body, time, mind, talents, and your treasures? How well are you utilizing your abilities in accordance with God's will? What are you doing for God with whatever God has bestowed upon you? By evaluating how I use the gifts given to me, God determines the next phase of my life, for God tests us through these gifts.

God tests us using money. He tests all kinds of things in your life—finance test, humility test, relationships test, jealousy test, sexual purity test, etc. God loves us and enjoys watching, guiding, and walking with us. However, God doesn't just automatically give his blessings to anybody. God thinks, "Before I give you spiritual power, I will provide you with some material possessions. And if I can trust you with material possessions, then I can trust you with spiritual power." This is a test. Life is a test in various areas. Life is a temporary assignment, because this life is preparation for the next life. Our lives are the get-ready-stage for real life, eternal life. And God is testing your faithfulness, and he's testing you all the time; he's testing you every minute in various areas. God's favorite tool to test you is how you handle your finances. It tests three things.

How I spend my money reveals what I love most. Whatever you love most is what you're going to give your most time and money to. God doesn't care what you say you love. If you want to know what you love most, look at your calendar and credit card statement. Because how you spend your time and money tells God what you love the most. In **Matthew 6, Jesus says, "Don't store up treasure here on Earth. Instead, store your treasures in Heaven... for wherever your treasure is, that's where your heart will be."** Wherever your heart is, you put your treasure, because you think it gives you happiness. Is it for God's cause or something else?

Do you put your trust in your treasure for security or happiness? Or are you trusting in God for your safety and happiness? Think about this! It's the acid test of faith. **Proverbs 11:28 says this: "If you trust in your money, you will fall. But if you trust in God, you will flourish like a green tree."** On the other hand, seeing how you manage money, God decides whether He will trust you or not. Because God says, "I'm looking to see how well you manage material things before I give you spiritual blessing. The Bible says whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. And whoever is irresponsible with little will be irresponsible with much. You don't own anything here on Earth. In Heaven, God wants to bless you for future inheritance in eternity, but God says if I can't trust you with little and what's on loan, why should I give you more?

The Bible says that **how I handle money determines how much God can bless my life in various realms.** That is mind-blowing when you think about it. That there is a direct connection between spiritual maturity and money. There's a direct connection between spiritual power and how I handle possessions. There is a direct connection between God's blessing in my life and what I do with my money.

Here's the third truth you need to remember. It is that money is neither good nor bad, right nor wrong. **Money is a tool to be used for God's purposes, love for God and others with humble, generous, and merciful heart.** Do I use money for that purpose?

One day, there will be an audit of our lives. We will be held accountable to the Lord for how we have used not only our money but also everything that God has bestowed upon us when our time on Earth comes to an end. "What did you do with what you were given – your time, talents, relationships, opportunities, your mind, your creativity, your connections?" What did you do with what God has given you? It doesn't matter how much or how little you have; **what matters is how you are using what you have been given.**

We all will give a personal account to God. God asks, "Did you use it for you?" If it is yes, then it will be a wrong answer.