

Making Giving a Priority

Matthew 6:33

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you."
- Matthew 6:33*

Main Point: Jesus points out how we can make the best investment through giving

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

In a very superficial sense, what is something you were recently seeking in life?

What things do you see others seeking that make you think we are on the wrong track in the world?

Unfortunately, we often find it easier to see when other people have misplaced priorities than to see when our own priorities have gotten mixed up. We all have goals in life: to finish school, to save for retirement, to pay our bills, to keep the house clean, to improve our golf swing, or to call our moms more often. With so many good options in life, it is easy for a "fun" option, like the golf swing, to take priority over things that might be more immediately important, like studying for a test. Jesus points out the fact that when we take our focus off of the worldly needs and wants and focus instead on Him, our priorities will come in line with His Kingdom. Then, and only then, will we be fulfilled and live free of anxiety.

There are some important steps to take before choosing how to invest:

1) **EVALUATE** (v.33).

Read the verses prior to our passage in **Matthew 6:25-32**. How do people tend to evaluate where they invest according to this passage? Do you see yourself in those statements? Explain.

Why is it important to seek FIRST the things of God as compared to the things of this world? See

If you are honestly evaluating your life, what have you valued above and beyond God's desire for your life? What would it take to re-evaluate what you value?

2) **CHOOSE THE RIGHT TARGET** (v. 33)

Jesus makes it clear our target should be that of righteousness, or "right standing with God." What does **Proverbs 11:18** say about those who "sow righteousness?" How have you witnessed this truth?

Read **Matthew 6:2**. What target are the “hypocrites” aiming for in their giving? What is their reward?

What does **Matthew 6:3-4** say about those who give in secret/humility? How do rewards differ for those who give in secret and those who give with much fan fare? What kind of reward are we talking about?

Hebrews 11:6 says “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” If we are not giving as Christians what kind of faith does that display? Where is the arrow of our faith aiming if not toward Him, and what reward might we be missing out on when shooting astray?

3) **THE RESULT IS COMPLETION** (v.33)

“All these things” are what the pagans and the Pharisees scrambled after in life. Jesus wants us to know that “all these things” are added and we are brought to completion when we place His Kingdom and His righteousness in its proper place. Where do you need a work of completion in your life, and how can you turn the focus off of your problem and onto the work of Christ in your life?

David desired for his son Solomon to build a temple for the Lord. Despite his drive to complete that mission, what did David have to say to his son about priorities in **1 Chronicles 28:9-10**? How does this go against the mindset of today when it comes to our priorities?

Colossians 2:10 (AMP) tells us “in Him you have been made *complete* [achieving spiritual stature through Christ], and He is the head over all rule and authority [of every angelic and earthly power].” How does knowing Jesus has authority over all and he is in you, making you complete, make a difference?

Apply It:

Consider where you place giving on your list of priorities. What is holding you back from putting it on top? What benefits, seen and unseen, temporal and eternal, might you reap from a heart of giving?

Pray:

Ask the Lord to instill an attitude of joy when giving. Pray your gifts would be multiplied for the work of God’s Kingdom and that many would be reached with His love and Gospel.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

CPR and First Aid Training: Saturday Oct. 14th in the worship center. 9a-1p.

Discovery Class: October 22nd. Email info@blythewoodvillage.com to RSVP.

Lake Scare-O-Lina: October 22nd. Sign up in the lobby to help!

Baptism: November 5th in Worship. Email info@blythewoodvillage.com to get more info.