

Intro: Pastor was driving down the road with a deacon and an Elder, terrible crash, all got killed, went to heaven together
Knocked on Pearly Gates, Peter came, welcomed them, show you to your mansions,
Deacons Glorious, Dont Deserve this!!! Visit Sick, yes, Pray for Hurting, Yes, Serve Food Pantry (Built w/works)
Elder: Fantastic, Don't Deserve this!!! Pray for Church, Make sure ministries had what needed? (Built w/works!)
Pastor Last, Saved me because He didn't want to Embarrass them, RUN DOWN HUT!
Mistake??? No...We did the best we could with what you sent us!

Today I want to talk with you about a new topic in Sermon On Mount!
Earning, Spending, Saving And Investing!

Mt 6:19 Pg 685

Here Jesus addresses a topic we think about all the time. Getting ready for "retirement!" Well, granted, when WE think about it, we usually think in terms of "Am I going to have enough to get from the time I quit working to the end of my life? Am I going to be able to do the things I need to do...some of the things I want to do...and am I going to have enough for my family!"

Jesus addresses that, and in effects says... "You need to ADJUST your thinking a little bit! You are worried about the time from when you retire...to when you die...but what about after THAT? ARE YOU READY FOR ETERNITY!
YOU ARE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME ON THAT 20-40 YEARS: WHAT ABOUT THE TIME THAT COMES AFTER? READY?"

1. Be Careful What You Earn, Spend, Save and Invest!

Vs 19

The original language here is very expressive. Jesus is probably using a very specific grammatical structure here.

Different than what we typically think when we read it.

>DON'T VS STOP storing up treasures here on earth! (Not saying, don't do this: Assumption is you ARE: STOP IT!

- What Are Earthly Treasures?
~Obviously money...BUT SO MUCH MORE THAN MONEY (That culture, any opulent display of wealth: Clothes)
~EX: Influence, Acclaim, Admiration from others, Success, Position, All different kinds of Possession
~Questions that help you define your "treasure"
What gives you satisfaction? What do you want to accumulate?
What do you pursue? What do you think: THIS will make me happy/satisfy?
What are your ambitions? Hopes? Desires, Goals?

Applic: Quote

- How do you "store them up?" What does it LOOK LIKE to actually "Store up treasures on earth!"
 - a. By living for the things of this world at the cost of pursuing the things of the next! (Spend Money/Time)
 - b. By Valuing the things of this world over the things of the next. (Invest in?/Important)
 - c. By Sacrificing the things of the next world in order to pursue the things of this world! (Work/Ministry)

Illus: I see this all the time.

Father that says, "Im taking this job...to provide for my family..." No time to serve God, spend children
Gives them every physical advantage in this world...no spiritual training for the next!

Businessman says: "I'm doing this deal to help all the people of my company," Yet sacrifices integrity

Sportsman says: "I'm need this time to relax" spends all discretionary time & money there..nothing God

>START storing up treasures in heaven! (You aren't doing this yet...so you better get busy!)

- What are Treasures in Heaven?
~ NOT Earning your way to heaven. Not earning or deserving to go because of something you have done
Bible is very clear. We can't do ANYTHING to earn our way
Heaven is a FREE GIFT from God, bought and paid for by the death, burial and resurrection of His Son
Rom 3:23: For all have sinned come short of glory of God
Rom 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Rom 5:8: God demonstrated His love for us in this...while we were sinners, Christ died for us
Rom 10:9 If we confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, believe in your heart...you will be saved
Rom 5:1 Therefore since we have been justified by faith we have peace with God
Rom 8:1 There is now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus
Rom 8:38-39 Nothing will separate us from the love of God: Life, nor death, angels, demons, present, future

~Not Earning your way...Then what is it? Rewards for Serving God Faithfully: Not To GET in...Because ARE In!

a. Approval of your Heavenly Father. "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

1Co 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

b. Crowns of Reward: Symbols of faithful service given for specific reasons as rewards for that service

(5) Righteousness Life Glory Incorruption Exultation or Praise

These are given by the Father and the Son as rewards for faithful service, commitment, sacrifice for Kingdom

~How Do You Earn Treasures In Heaven? In a PRACTICAL Sense...How do you go about getting them?

I mean, we know what to do to get ready for physical retirement, right?

Earn Well...Save what you can, Wisely ...Spend Carefully, Invest Wisely

a. Use your PHYSICAL POSITON AND POSSESSIONS for Kingdom purposes

Luke 16:9 *"I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."*

b. Use your TALENTS/GIFTS for the Kingdom purpose.

1 Tim 6:17-19 TURN THERE *"In this way they will lay up treasures for themselves..."*

c. Use your TIME for Kingdom purposes

Mt 25:1-13 Foolish Virgins: *"be ready...no one knows the day or hour"*

d. Invest your PRAYERS in helping others.

Col 4:12 *Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God,*

e. Look for opportunities to serve CHILDREN.

Lu 18:16 *But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

f. Look for opportunities to serve the MARGANILIZED and DOWNTRODDEN.

Mt 25:45 *"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'*

~How Are My "TREASURES" Evaluated?

1 Cor 3:8-15

- Motivation > Intent of Heart
- Investment in Kingdom > Done in my strength and ability or His?

~What Do I DO With My Treasures?

- Walk around for all eternity...sporting my "crowns" for all of heaven to see how wonderful I was?
- No...Doesn't match up with the scripture...
- I'm only there because of Him

SO WHAT THEN?

- Rev 4:1-11
- We gather to worship the one who sits on the throne...The one who bought and paid our way in with His blood
- Elders bow down...worship...take their crowns off and lay them at His feet...proclaim Holy, Holy, Holy
- And I...the one who NEVER deserved to be there...The one saved by His blood...Redeemed with His life
- I can take my crowns...and I can do the same...I can proclaim His glory, His grace..His goodness

PEOPLE ASK ME SOMETIMES...PASTOR, WHY DO YOU DO THIS...SERVE, GIVE, LABOR, STRIVE

- Oh, its partially because I love you...BUT...its MOSTLY because I love Him
- One day...I am going to kneel at the foot of the throne...take my crowns..he bought, he empowered...slide them
- HOLY< HOLY< HOLY!

AND THERE IS NOTHING SO TERRIFYING TO ME IN THIS LIFE AS TO THINK THAT I WILL MEET AT THE THRONE AND BE THERE EMPTYHANDED...HAVING SQUANDERED THE LIFE HE BOUGHT WITH HIS OWN BLOOD, AND AS ALL THE SAINTS OF THE AGES LAY DOWN THEIR CROWNS AT HIS FEET...I'M EMPTYHANDED

CONCL: Listen to me: Stop store up treasures on Earth..Start storing up treasures in heaven!

Because the day is coming...when we will gather at the foot of the throne...and how awful would it be to be emptyhanded

Q: So if you were to go today...what do you have to offer the one who bought and paid for your redemption with His life?

Q: Do you have treasures waiting for you in heaven? Will you have something to offer Him?

Q: What are you focused on? You can't be divided...Can't be looking at both Heaven and Earth

Q: What are you pursuing? You can't serve both...Jesus will tell you that

Q: What changes do you need to make today? Never too late to start saving!!!!

HERE IS A CERTAINTY: WE WILL STAND BEFORE HIM...EMPTYHANDED...OR WITH CROWNS TO LAY AT FEET

