

Intro: March 31st 2020 I was stuck In Cuba...Afraid I wasn't going to be able to get back into the US! Because of COVID and what was taking place world wide the US had closed our borders. I was in Cuba with only the money in my pocket. OK...except in Cuba, Credit Cards don't work. I was facing the possibility that it would be months before the US allowed anyone in from an international destination. I was biting outside on the balcony praying... "God you said you would take care of me... but I'm not feeling very safe! As I was praying, a sparrow came Immediately I remembered this passage of Scripture. Mt 6, Where Jesus is teaching and He said (READ)

Remember Our Biblical Overview Of Giving.

3 Parts: Before The Law: OT Levitical Law Jesus/NT

Today We want to Look At What Jesus Teaches Us About Giving: Mt 6:19-34 Notice the first thing says

1. Put God First And Everything Else Falls Into Place! (Get focused on RIGHT things!)

- Store up treasure in heaven...not on Earth: Vs 19-20 Focus on spiritual not material things! 401Heaven
- Use your money to train your heart! Vs 21 We always have it backwards! Heart follows money
- Put God First: Vs 24 Can't serve both...one will always be first: Choose
- God knows what you need...and provides Vs 25-34 Your Father KNOWS: Need vs Want!

Illus: As I was sitting in Cuba counting my money God said: Why are you here? I sent you...I will provide! The bird came...I was so upset...because I didn't get a picture...I wanted to tell everyone: CAME BACK!

2. True Wealth Is About a Lot More Than Money!

Lk 12:13-21 Rich Fool

- Be on Your Guard: Vs 15: lit: Stand Guard! DANGER!!! Warning against danger!
 - Life is More than things and money: I am at hospital beds all time NEVER: What about my money!
 - Life is about OTHERS, NOT SELF! Look how many times he says ME and MINE!
- Illus: Jn 10:10 MSG
"A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of!" (You can have a GREAT life without money...and miserable with!)
- Bumper sticker is wrong: *"The one who dies with the most toys wins"* NO: *The one who dies greatest impact!*

3. Remember You Are A Steward Of What You Hold, Not An Owner!

Luke 16:10-13

- Steward Vs Owner: Steward manages something for another's benefit: Owner for his own benefit!
 - Q: Are you being trustworthy with what God has given you NOW?
 - We say: God if you gave me more...I would use it for you! He says: *"What are you doing with what you have?"* You see, If we aren't being trustworthy with what we currently have...God will not give us more! Waste it!
- Illus:** I have a plan for what to do with the 1.5 billion dollar powerball prize! Made it years ago bought ticket! Maybe not a good steward, huh?
- Illus: I do know what a good steward looks like though. Check for 100,000.00 *"Pastor, that's not my job, it's yours. I have a gift for making money, I make it and give it: You and the Elders decide where God wants it to be used!"* Then he said, *I have been doing this for years...this isn't first church...I'm just being faithful!*

4. Be Intentional: Plan Your Giving. Use Your Money, Don't Let Your Money Use You!

Many of us are casual and off the cuff with our giving. We show up and think, need to do something...what do I have? Both Jesus and Paul tell us something entirely different. They both say: Be Intentional. Be intention with God, be intentional with others, be intentional with yourself.

- **Be Intentional with your giving to God:** QUOTE: *"Don't worship your wealth, worship with your wealth"*
- **LK 14:28-30** No one sits down to build a tower w/o first counting the cost...do I have enough to finish
1 Cor 16:2: *On the first day of the week each of us should put aside a sum of money in keeping w/income* I believe what Paul is referencing is a tithe...but some would disagree...
- **Be Intentional With Your Giving To Others:**
Luke 14:12 -14 Do not invite friends, family, instead invite poor crippled, lame blind! USE YOUR MONEY!
Illus: Remember the Rich Fool: He NEVER ONCE CONSIDERD HELPING OTHERS!!!
1 Jn 3:17-18 Whoever has worlds goods and doesn't help those in need...How can love of God dwell in them!
Illus: We don't publicize it, don't want to embarrass anyone: Paid mortgage single parent; meds; repair car

