

Invest Your Treasure

Pacific Heart Attitudes - part 6

October 13, 2019

This week's theme: God uses money in our lives to...

DAY 1: Build genuine *character*.

1. God uses money for more than paying bills, providing for families and paying for vacations and toys. There is a danger of making money more important than it is. That can be highly destructive to people and to families. Why is God so concerned about money, anyway?

2. God uses money to shape you, to grow you up, and to build your character. God uses money to demonstrate who He is. God uses money for you to make a difference. God uses money to give you an opportunity for great legacy and joy. .

Luke 16:10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

3. Jesus tells us that being trustworthy is of great significance. What is the natural effect of being trustworthy in little things?

Luke 16:11 "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"

4. What is the natural effect of being trustworthy in dealing with money?

Luke 16:12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

5. What is the natural effect of not being trustworthy in handling what belongs to others?

6. Sometimes, when God has not gotten through to us regarding our character, He has a readymade entry in getting our attention—our money!

7. What is your biggest takeaway from today's devotional?

DAY 2: Build Genuine Security. Freedom.

Proverbs 18:10-11 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it, and are safe. The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it an unscalable wall.

1. Everyone likes to believe that money is what provides security. However, money can evaporate in a natural disaster, a debilitating illness, a horrific car accident, or a law suit.
2. Additionally, it appears that the more wealth one has, the greater the anxiety, worry and fear of losing it.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to His glorious riches in Christ.

3. Real security is rooted in the character of God. It is the belief that whatever I really need, God can provide.
4. How do we learn that kind of security? What ways does God use to not just teach us this lesson but bring us to a conviction about the truth of God is our ultimate security? What comes to your mind?

Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

5. All of us try to do what Jesus tells us not to do: we try to serve two masters—God and money.
6. What is the effect of trying to “ride that fence?”
7. Sometimes it takes losing money, living with less, or living “month-to-month” to teach us that God is our security! Has this happened to you?

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; [10] then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

When God is genuinely first in our lives He becomes our felt security!

DAY 3: Build genuine trust.

Deut. 14:23 (Living) Bring this tithe to eat before the Lord your God at the place he shall choose as his sanctuary; this applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn of your flocks and herds. The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

1. The phrase “put God first in your life” is a modern translation for the Hebrew word, “revere.”
2. Do you want to get closer to God? Do you want to be able to trust Him in deeper ways? Are you tired of anxiety and worry? Where do we learn to trust? Money.

Matt. 6:21 ...for where you treasure is there will your heart be also.

3. We know “in our head” that God can be trusted. But when our back is against a financial wall we realize that our real trust of God can be quite puny! Money is one of God’s ways to make the intangible (faith) become more tangible.

Jeremiah 17:5-6 Thus says the Lord, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant."

*Jeremiah 17:7 Blessed is the man who trusts **in** the Lord and whose trust **is** the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.*

4. Trouble is often where we “see” God acting to provide for us!

Deuteronomy 8:18 You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth; that He may confirm his covenant which He swore to your fathers, as at this day.

5. Notice that it is money that God also uses to “confirm his covenant” with us!

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: Build genuine legacy.

1. Everyone wants to know that their life mattered, that we made a difference, but how does that happen? One way is through our giving!

2. The Corinthian church was filled with fairly new Christians.

3. There were Christians in other parts of the world that were experiencing hard times, financially.

4. Young churches in Macedonia and Achaia responded to Paul's call to help their Christian brothers and sisters in a time of need.

5. The people in the church responded!

2 Cor. 8:2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. [3] For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, [4] they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. [5] And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

6. What do you notice particularly about their attitude toward giving?

2 Cor. 9:12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. [13] Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

7. Giving to the Lord makes a difference. It is a tangible expression of God's love to people that lasts for eternity!

8. Let's end with a few of my favorite quotes about giving, and leaving a legacy!

‘We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.’

“We live forever through our giving.”

“We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give.”

Douglas M. Lawson

9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Build a genuine *investment* for yourself!

1. God uses your work and generous heart to not only impact others but you!

Matthew 6:19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

2. It's been said, "You can't take it with you, but you can send it ahead!" The investment we make in God's kingdom will also benefit you throughout eternity. The joy of seeing the lives of people who came to Christ through your influence will be priceless.

3. In the following verses, jot down what strikes you about the paradox of giving!

Luke 6:38 (RSV) ...give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Proverbs 11:24 (RSV) One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

²⁵ A liberal man will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

4. Giving doesn't "just happen." We are to make it a weekly priority in our lives.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (RSV) On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come.

5. Our Heart Attitude for the week is: Invest Your Treasure. One of the attitudes and habits that makes us a community is our commitment to pool our resources in God's kingdom, together.

6. What strikes you from this week's devotionals?