



75th Anniversary Weekly Devotionals

Week 5 (Oct 16 – 22)

Each week, we will provide 5 days of Bible reading to guide you as you pray and meditate on the Bible passages and topics we're studying together as a church family. You can use the S.O.A.P. method (S.O.A.P. journals available at the Info Center) or any method you choose.

The Treasure Test

Everyone has a treasure. God's Word tells us that what we do with our money reveals our true treasure, because our hearts always follow our treasure. God says, "Make me your highest treasure." Generosity is how we reorient our hearts, to love God first and most, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

DAY ONE: Read Matthew 6:19-24, a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus lays out the distinctive lifestyle of a kingdom citizen. This is a passage of contrasts. Reread 6:19-21. List the contrasts (*i.e., earth/heaven*). Don't lose the list! We'll add to it all week. What do these contrasts teach you? If this were a balance sheet, which column appears most profitable?

DAY TWO: Read Matthew 6:19-24 again. What is the time contrast? Is delayed gratification a struggle for you? Look at 6:24. "Master" translates the Greek word also translated Lord. Jesus personifies money as a rival to God. Is money an idol in your life in any way? How does this personification impact your thinking about money? Meditate on the word "serve." Which Master offers a better life? Take time today for confession and praise specifically about your financial assets and liabilities. Jesus addresses them in this sermon. We should not shrink from an equally frank accounting.

DAY THREE: Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 (in NLT if possible). What can you add to your day one "list" about the nature of earthly treasure? Plenty of wealthy people appear to go through life without suffering from moths, rust or thieves. What is the reality concerning earthly wealth, according to 5:10-15?

- 5:10-12 seem to speak of "lifestyle bracket creep." Have you experienced the dissatisfaction of growing affluence? How? Do people's opinions impact your stewardship decisions?

DAY FOUR: Many righteous people in the Bible were wealthy (Abraham, David, Lydia). What place should money have in our lives? Read the following verses and add insights to your list about heavenly treasure (Luke 6:32-38, Acts 2:42-47, Acts 5:1-6, Acts 20:35, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

- In light of these passages, write a vision statement for how you will use your money. What if the heading over that statement was "Investing for Eternity"?

- EXTRA CREDIT: Google R.G. LeTourneau.

DAY FIVE: Read Proverbs 3:5-6, 9-10. Add to that list!

- Spend your time today praising God for all the good things he has blessed you with in the past. Thank him for the blessings you are experiencing right now in the present. Trust that he has even more goodness in store for you in the future.