

Media Notes

[Media Notes]

Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about where we find our treasure and how it can impact our hearts.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because it helps reveal the connection between our finances and our heart.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the first sermon in our stewardship series which will conclude with making our annual giving commitment on November 16.

What are the next action steps?

The next steps are to reflect on these questions

- What percentage of my income is God calling me to give in the year ahead?
- If you didn't have your debt or commitments, and if you could choose where to store up treasure, where would it be?
- As you consider where you would store up treasure, take a moment to assess realistically where your treasure currently is? Do you feel your heart divided?
- What beginning steps can you take to lay up treasure in heaven?

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that, through Christ, we can lay up treasure in heaven away from the damage of moth, rust and thieves.

Metadata

1. Topic(s)
 1. stewardship, generosity
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
 1. Matthew
3. Series
 1. Treasure
4. Speaker
 1. Andrew Conard
5. Tags
 1. Finance, generosity, giving, treasure,



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Matthew 6:19-21, CEB

19 “Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. 20 Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. 21 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

*** START SERMON TIMER ***

Series Review

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Often we think that our treasure will follow our hearts, but Jesus suggested something different. He said that where our treasure goes—our time, money, and energy—our hearts will follow. During this worship series we are exploring Matthew 6 and Jesus’ teachings on money, giving, worry, and more.

We will conclude this series on November 16 when we make our annual giving commitments to financially support God’s work through this church in the year ahead. This is a tangible way for us to direct our treasure in God’s direction and to shape our hearts as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Opening

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Story

In 2006, my wife and I moved to Kansas City to start our life together. We were newly married and moving to Kansas City. The apartment into which we were moving was not going to be ready until a few weeks after we were appointed to begin serving as pastors. We had packed Nicole's things from her home in North Carolina. They were in the hands of a moving company and scheduled to arrive in a few weeks. Earlier that summer I had moved most of what I owned into a storage unit.

Except for some clothes and luggage that was in our vehicle, Nicole and I had everything we owned in some kind of storage facility. Our stuff was locked up in a vehicle or storage unit, along with hundreds of others. All we had ever saved for, deliberated over, and purchased was packed up. For a month, we didn't need a single thing from storage.

Transition

Have you ever had some of your things in storage?
Maybe you have a storage unit right now.
Where is your treasure?

What Do I Really Treasure?

Our Treasure Is Not Found in Our Stuff

There is 2.3 billion square feet of rentable self-storage space in the United States. We have so much stuff that we can't keep it all in our homes. But our treasure is not found in all this stuff.

This worship series is not designed to make you feel guilty about having things and enjoying them. When Nicole and I were able to move to our apartment after living in the extended stay hotel for a month, we used nearly everything we had packed away. The chairs, table, bed, all went to good use. What I learned, though, was that those things are not my treasure.

What We Value in the End

As a pastor, I have the opportunity and honor to be with people during their last days of life. During those final days, it is unusual for people to talk about the things that they have acquired, those things which the scripture describes as “treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them”¹

In their final days, people talk about their family, friends, moments with God, children they have taught, mission trips they have taken. They talk about vacations and laughter, and they share stories that are amusing and meaningful. They talk less about salaries and more about promises shared with God and with people.

Example of End of Life Conversation

[Text Here]

Transition

This series is about where you are investing your life. It is about those things that you will share with your family and friends during the last days of your life—your treasure. However, there is no denying that it is also about money. That’s because Jesus talked about money.

Heart Follows Treasure

Jesus Talks about Money

Jesus talked more about money than about heaven and hell combined. He talked more about money than anything except the Kingdom of God.

Eleven of Jesus’ thirty-nine parables are about money. One of every seven verses in the Gospel of Luke talks about money.

Why did Jesus talk so much about money?

Jesus Cares about Our Hearts

The scripture passage for today is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon, Jesus teaches us what life in the Kingdom of God is like. He paints a picture of what it looks like to love God with all our heart soul, mind and strength and love our neighbor as ourself. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount we see that Jesus is looking at the heart. He cares about the hearts of God’s people.

Jesus talks about money and treasure because he knows that they affect our hearts. He knows money stresses our relationships. Money causes division in and among people. Money and its pursuit can be all-consuming and burdensome. Those

¹ Matthew 6:19, CEB.

who have lost jobs or find money hard to find will tell you that it is not just a financial issue but an emotional and spiritual one. Jesus talks about money because he cares about our hearts.

Our Treasure Shows Us Our Heart

We usually think that where our heart is, our treasure will follow. Jesus says that it is the opposite. Where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. This is not just a change in semantics. Jesus knows that the place where we spend our money will become our treasure, whether we want it to or not. Financial commitments require time and energy. They pull our heart in a direction that perhaps neither we nor God ever intended. If you buy a house that requires a large percentage of your income, you have no choice but to spend time and energy and money in paying for it. When you put your treasure into anything, your heart will follow.

Personal Example of Our Treasure Showing Our Heart

[Text Here]

Conclusion

Heart Investment

Billy Graham was asked late in his life, “If you could, would you go back and do anything differently?” His answer may surprise you.

“Yes, of course. I’d spend more time at home with my family, and I’d study more and preach less. I wouldn’t have taken so many speaking engagements. . . . Whenever I counsel someone who feels called to be an evangelist, I always urge them to guard their time and not feel like they have to do everything.”

Bill Graham was known around the world as an evangelist. When you hear his name, most often people think about his preaching and sharing the good news of Jesus to thousands of people in stadiums around the world. Yet, when reflecting on his own life he would have focused less on “treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them”² Instead, he would have focused on relationships with God and other people—storing up treasure in heaven.

Transition

Where is your treasure?

In what are you investing?

Connect with personal example above

² Matthew 6:19, CEB.

Good News

The good news is that, through Christ, we can lay up treasure in heaven away from the damage of moth, rust and thieves. When we are investing our lives in the things of God, we find that our hearts no longer feel disconnected from God but rather are in unity with God.

Celebrate God's Work at First UMC El Dorado

We seek to lay up treasure in heaven as a church. As we look back over the past year, how we spend our time and money as a congregation is an indicator of where our treasure can be found as a congregation. Your generosity has made possible some incredible things and I want to take a moment to celebrate. In 2014, your annual giving commitment made it possible for us to:

- Worship
 - Baptize four infants as part of worship
- Grow
 - Hire a Director of Children's Ministry
 - Launch FirstKids Serve
 - Create a discipleship pathway
- Give
 - Give away 100% of our Easter and Christmas Eve offering
- Serve
 - Take an adult mission trip to Baxter Springs for disaster relief
- Share
 - Continue to support Mothers of Preschoolers
 - Welcome seven new members

Thank You

Thank you for being a congregation that is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Thank you for making it possible for us to be part of God's work changing lives, developing leaders and sharing Christ.

You are

- committed to God's work.
- faithful to God's call in our lives.
- and active in our community.

Call to Action

Commitment Logistics

As we celebrate the work that God has done through our church this year, I invite you to begin to consider how you will support the work of God through our church in 2015. On November 16, you will be invited to make an annual giving commitment to support God's work through this church. As you begin to consider your annual giving commitment over the next several weeks, talk to God and others in your family seeking to answer the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give in the year ahead?"

What Do You Want to be Investing In?

If you didn't have your debt or commitments, and if you could choose where to store up treasure, where would it be?

What Are You Investing In?

As you consider where you would store up treasure, take a moment to assess realistically where your treasure currently is? Do you feel your heart divided?

Invitation

What beginning steps can you take to lay up treasure in heaven?

Closing Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the way which you have been at work in our congregation this year. Help us lay up treasure in heaven so our hearts might follow in your direction. Guide us we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sermon Time		