

Exodus: Journey of Fulfillment

A Calling to a Generous Life

Week 2

Sermon Date 11/5/2017

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) From last week's study, what did you learn about living a generous life?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

The Goal

This week we are continuing our study on generous living. We will be wrapping up our Fall Quarter with this study. I pray your groups have grown and God has helped you move closer to the freedom He promises in Christ. The Goal this week is to examine our hearts and see where we are. My prayer for you as leaders, and your group, is that you will be challenged and encouraged to find your treasure in Christ and to live a generous life with your time, treasure, and talents.

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 6:19-27(NLT)

¹⁹ "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²² "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

²⁵ “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing?

²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?ⁱ

- 4) What do you think Jesus is referring to when He discusses *treasure*?
Time, talent, and resources (money).
- 5) What does the passage say about our hearts and treasure?
“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
- 6) Jesus makes the connection of our treasure to our hearts; what does He mean?
- 7) In Verse 22 Jesus makes the comparison of treasure and the eye. What do you think He means, and why the eye specifically?

Here is a note from: *The Apologetics Study Bible*

The “good eye” and the “bad eye” are expressions for generosity (Greek *haplous* = “single, undivided” and “generous,” see Rm 12:8) and miserliness (a person who hoards wealth and spends as little money as possible.) (Pr 28:22). “If the light within you is darkness” is a paradoxical way of saying, “If where there ought to be light, darkness is found.” Jesus’ point is that love of money clouds one’s moral vision.ⁱⁱ

- 8) In what ways can money become our master?
- 9) According to the passage, why can't a person serve two masters?

From the *Faithlife Study Bible*

The problem that Jesus identifies is not money itself, but the divided loyalties that result from the pursuit of money (compare 1 Tim 6:10). Being a disciple of Jesus requires complete devotion to God (compare Matt 8:18–22; 19:16–26).ⁱⁱⁱ

10) What does Jesus tell us to do in the previous verses to help us to not serve two masters? The phrase “that is why” has a direct correlation to serving two masters. Worrying about what to eat or drink or what to wear becomes a master for us.

- 11) How does worry connect to the slave mentality we have been discussing over the past several weeks?
- 12) Why would worry lead to money becoming our master?

TAKING IT HOME

One of my favorite word pictures is this: Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but doesn't get you anywhere. From the heart of Christ, we learn that worry is much more insidious. Worry will lead to money becoming our master. We will love one master and hate the other. I must be honest, these words are convicting to me. I have believed the lie that worry is not that big of a deal. However, it is and many of us fall into the trap of worry. Trust is the antidote for the lie that it's good to worry about life. The pragmatic among us will argue that worry is good because it helps me take care of the things that need to be done. I would substitute "wisdom and good planning" for their definition of worry because once those things are done, we trust God for the results. Worry is not taking care of the details, it's overthinking and not trusting God's provision and goodness. It's sitting in that rocking chair and going back and forth, but never moving into the freedom God wants to provide us.

Matthew 6:28-34 (NLT)

²⁸ "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

³¹ "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God* above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴ "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.^{iv}

- 13) In what ways has worry been a challenge for you? Have you had success in overcoming it? If so, how?
- 14) From the passage in Mathew, where does Jesus tell us to look as our example of God's provision?
- 15) Heart check, ready . . . where is your treasure? This is not intended to bring guilt but to challenge us to trust.
- 16) What can we let go of to trust God and worry less?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Matthew Chapter 6.

17) What does Jesus want us to shift in our lives?

18) What can you surrender to Christ that needs to change?

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt 6:19–27.

ⁱⁱ Ted Cabal et al., *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 1415.

ⁱⁱⁱ John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Mt 6:24.

^{iv} Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt 6:28–34.