

Money Matters 2

True Identity - True Life

Preamble - What the Bible says

- 31,173 verses in the Bible
- 500 verses on prayer
- Less than that on faith
- 2,350 verses on Money, wealth and possessions
- Jesus spoke more about money, wealth and possessions than about faith or prayer
- Jesus spoke more about money, wealth and possessions than heaven and health combined
- This is an important subject
- Money Matters because as our money moves so our hearts move
- Money is not evil. It just simply represents value
- We use money as a medium of exchange for things we value
 - We value staying alive so we exchange it for Food &
 - We value education so we exchange it
 - We value Entertainment perhaps more than we ought so we give our money to Netflix or dine world or the Theatre
 - We value the spread of gospel so we give to our Church

Money matters because it is a reflection of our priorities, values and commitments. Our cheques stubs', bank and credit card statements, reveal more about our hearts than anything else. **Steve Uppal**

Introduction - Recap

Last week we spoke about ownership

a. God Owns everything

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; [2] for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. **Psalm 24:1-2**

Everything under heaven belongs to me. **Job 41:11**

b. We are stewards not owners

God is the owner of all things, and we are simply His stewards. Whenever we think like owners, it's a red flag. We should be thinking like stewards, investment managers, always looking for the best place to invest the Owners money. At the end of our term of service, we'll undergo a job performance evaluation: "For we will all stand before God's judgment seat... So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." **Randy**

Alcorn

- Time, Talent, Treasure
- Relationships, revelation, Opportunity
- The earth we live on

c. We will be held to account

It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' " ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. **Romans 14:11-12**

- Every pound and every purchase

- Every relationship
- Every day, every hour and every minute

True Identity -

- Story when I was younger with trainers from bacons - They were called Nicks (Nikes)
- Many today get their identity from their stuff, their income, their material possessions
- Our world thinks you are defined by the wealth you have

Key Text - The Parable of the Rich Fool

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." [14] Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" [15] Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." [16] And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. [17] He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' [18] "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. [19] And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' [20] "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' [21] "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." [22] Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. [23] For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. **Luke 12:13-23**

- Watch out - remember he is speaking to the guy who has an issue with an inheritance
- Be on your guard
- Against all kinds of greed
- Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions
 - Speaking to that man he is saying your more concerned then you perhaps need to be

His problem was not his wealth

- It is not wrong to be productive and prosperous
- It is not wrong to have a bumper harvest or to be promoted and have a wage increase
- He is not a fool because he had money, thats not the point of what Jesus is saying

His problem was what he wanted to do with his wealth

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. [19] And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' [20] "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' [21] "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Luke 12.18

- Store the surplus - even that is not necessarily wrong
- Say to myself
- Take life easy - Relax
- Eat and drink
- Be merry - Entertainment
- He gave no indication of being rich towards God

Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot." **Luke 12:15 MSG**

- In essence he was saying thats not what defines you

- But be rich towards God

Oh how vulnerable the fallen human heart is — mine is — to feeling that having lots of things equals being really alive. **John Piper**

Application

1. Find True Life

- If life is not in our possessions where is it?

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **John 17:3**

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. **1 John 5:12**

- Life is walking with and knowing God
- Enjoying intimacy and relationship with him

2. Be Rich towards God

“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.” **Luke 12:21**

- Where do you find your deepest satisfaction?
- Where do you find most joy?
- I pray you will find your joy in Jesus and knowing him.
- Perhaps the opposite of storing up things for ourselves is to store them up for Jesus - Use money to make Jesus look good.
- God this is all yours, you made my fields prosper. I am richer than I expected. How can I make your name famous. I don't need more and more. What can I do to make much of you and point the world to you
- Life is not in my abundance used on myself to relax more, eat more, drink more and be merry.

Practical Application (from John Pipers sermon on this passage)

1. Study to see and savour the supreme value of Jesus

- Through reading my Bible everyday
- To see God as supremely valuable above all else that would compete with him

2. I pray and ask God to help me see him as supremely valuable.

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. **Psalm 5:3**

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. **Psalm 90:14**

- Pray, ask, be on a quest
- Satisfy me in the morning with your steadfast love
- Pray so that you would feel it

3. Daily put your trust in his promises that your needs will be met.

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:19**

- My God will supply all your needs according to his riches in Christ.

4. Set aside a gift from your monthly income.

- Disciplined and regular set up
- Spontaneous and joy motivated giving

5. Turn the prosperity of your fields into the prosperity of others

- Regularly increase your disciplined giving
- Look for ways of serving others