

UNCERTAINTY

Experiencing God's Peace (*Matthew 6*)

3/1/2009

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust can not destroy and thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew chapter 6, verses 19-20 (737)

- Material possessions and money are not evil just uncertain.
- During Jesus time most if his audience would have been poor.
- Jesus is setting up a comparison between the material and the spiritual.
- *Spiritual*- The things that God values and his way of handling the material things of this world.
- How much of my time is focused on my relationship with stuff as compared to my relationship with Jesus?
- As a Christ follower money & material possessions become an instrument to please God.

"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 both God and money. Matthew chapter 6, verse 24 (737)

The Truth!

- God created everything.
- God owns everything
The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.
Psalm chapter 24, verse 1 (423)
- I am a manager not an owner.
Now a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.
1 Corinthians chapter 4, verse 2 (872)

The sooner I acknowledge my role as a manager and God's role as the rightful owner of everything I have, the sooner I will experience ... peace, contentment, hope and gratitude.

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
Matthew chapter 6, verse 21 (767)

- ✓ Jesus is not looking for your money but rather your heart.
- ✓ Make sure your heart is captured only by Jesus.
- ✓ "Put your treasure in heaven and your heart will inevitably follow".

For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me - the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!

Jeremiah chapter 2, verse 13 (571)

When my heart is captured by money and material things...

- ✓ I look for fulfillment through money & possessions.
- ✓ I am not regularly inviting God into my financial decisions.
- ✓ I don't have a desire to learn what the Bible teaches about money.
- ✓ I am not generous in giving to others in need and to God.
- ✓ My expenses regularly exceed my income.
- ✓ I struggle with envy and compare what I have to what others have.
- ✓ I am not experiencing contentment.
- ✓ Gratefulness is a struggle for me.

When my heart is captured by Jesus...

- ✓ I count on God's provision and his fulfillment!
- ✓ I regularly ask God how to use his money.
- ✓ I am open to the Holy Spirit's leading in this area of my life.
- ✓ Giving is my first priority and I am generous.
- ✓ I live within my means.
- ✓ I regard all that I have as a gift from God.
- ✓ I am content with what I have and experience God's peace no matter the circumstances.
- ✓ I am grateful to God for giving to me.

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

Matthew chapter 6, verses 22-23 (737)

- ❖ Your eye is your window to the world.
- ❖ What you look at most will be what you think about all the time.
- ❖ *A greedy person tries to get rich quick, but it only leads to poverty.* Proverbs chapter 28, verse 22 (NIV)
- ❖ Focus on material riches and you will experience uncertainty.
- ❖ Focus on heavenly riches and you will experience certainty... peace, hope contentment & gratitude.

These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously and he will give you all you need.

Matthew chapter 6, verses 32-33 (737)

- ✓ God will always provide for my needs?!?
- ✓ "and he will give you all you need from day to day"
- ✓ God provision is conditional
 - *"live righteously"*
 - *"Seek the kingdom of God above all else"*
- ✓ Have I used well what God has already provided?

Want more?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

- Who is the master?
- Who is the servant?
- On what basis were they given their bags of silver?
- What will the master look for when he returns?
- On what basis will the servants be judged?
- Which servant do I resemble in this story?

Next Week: Consequences: Good & Bad

As Shared by Evan Curry Jr.

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I expect to survive the world economic crisis. Here are **the top 10 things** I've learned over the years.

1. **Tithe** - God will bless and money won't rule you.
2. **Enjoy the priceless things** like walks with your spouse, hikes & soccer with your children, dinner conversations with your family and dancing with your grandchildren.
3. **Be content** (grateful) with what you have (Phil 4:11-13)
4. **Don't compare** to others, since they are likely stressed and in debt.
5. **Live cheaply** and decrease financial stress (one of the top marriage and health busters)
6. **Save**, even if it starts with \$5 weekly.
7. **Treat debt like the plague** (except for home and education, which increase in value)
8. **Work hard** and smart and please your boss. Eventually it pays off.
9. Tithe your time in **volunteer** ministry to the Lord.
10. **Spend on what you value**, not just buying "stuff". Our money went to God/church, keeping Mom home, Christian education & college and family vacations.

May God bless you and your finances,
Evan