



## A LIFE OF BEING A DISCIPLE

### LESSON 4 – TREASURES

#### Opening Prayer

#### INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

**Precursor:** Financial Stewardship (i.e., managing God’s gift of money) does not just pertain to your offering but has everything to do with the way you manage the rest of what God has given you as well. God wants us to be content with how he blesses us with treasures. The biggest secret of contentment is knowing that you have everything you need in Jesus and what he has done for you. Trusting that, whether “rich” or “poor,” we will be content. Another key to contentment is keeping your priorities straight.

#### First Things First:

**First,** read the passages in the passage bank as a group and comment on what it has to say about the priorities God wants us to have as Christians. Think of other things we spend our money on as well.

**Second,** when you have your list, rank the biblical priorities from God’s perspective and the world’s.

**Finally,** discuss the reasons there is so much discontentment among the people of the richest nation in the history of the world.

**Passage Bank:** Proverbs 3:9; Matthew 22:21; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Timothy 6:17. (See page 2.)

#### A Godly Priority Structure:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

#### A Worldly Priority Structure:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

*Proverbs 3:9* Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops

*Matthew 22:21* – Then he said to them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

*Ephesians 4:28* – He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

*1 Timothy 5:8* – If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

*1 Timothy 6:17* – Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

## TREASURE THOUGHTS

1. God tells us **how** he wants us to give. The highlighted section of the passage contains five principles for giving an offering. Identify the five principles and explain what each means in your own words.

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*“Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. **On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.**” (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)*

2. God tells us *why* he wants us to give. God wants us to be cheerful out of thanks to him when we give an offering. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, he says “you *will* abound in every good work,” not “you *should* abound in every good work.” What’s the difference?

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:7–8)*

*Think about it! You are calling to encourage an inactive member to come back to worship and the first thing they say is, “Yeah, I know. I’ll send an offering in.” How would you respond?*

3. God tells us *the trust we can have* as we give. Read Matthew 6:25–34 and answer the questions.
  - The Father knows what you need more than you know! Of course, the primary proof of God’s love for us is the cross and that shows us he will care for us. But Jesus makes a conditional promise instead of pointing to that. What is it?
  - On a scale of 1–10, how much do you (personally and as a congregation) worry about money? Who does Jesus saying you are acting like if you worry about money?
  - Notice the promise in verse 33. What does this mean for you personally and as a congregation? What does it not mean?

<sup>25</sup>*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup>Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”*

<sup>28</sup>“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup>Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

## GROUP ACTIVITY

Below are listed 6 principles for giving offerings. In your group, pick your top 3 and discuss why they are important for godly giving.

- Give in response to God’s love.
- Give willingly and cheerfully.
- Give proportionately.
- Give as part of your worship.
- Give regularly.
- Give your firstfruits.

Agree/Disagree: Financial Stewardship is a matter of eternal life and death.

**Evaluate this statement:** “A congregation’s approach to their CMO (Congregational Mission Offering) models financial stewardship for its members.”

Look at the Challenge Card for this month. How will each help train you toward godly stewardship?

### **CLOSING ACTIVITY**

**Prayer Time.** Take two minutes to write a closing prayer in the space below based on the truths about financial stewardship we just studied.