

WEEK FOUR (4 - 10 March 2023)

OVERVIEW

What is most important in your life? Jesus taught His disciples to invest their wealth on eternal things, not earthly things. Put another way, He was telling His followers, “Put your money toward something that will matter 20,000 years from now.” Jesus went on to teach His disciples that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Whatever or whomever your heart goes after is what you truly treasure (or worship). Storing up treasure in heaven is a better investment, more secure, and allows us to be devoted to God over things of this world.

READ

Before opening your Bible, ask God to prepare your mind and heart to hear His Word.

Big Idea: We bring to God our first and best, because God loved us by giving His first and best in Christ.

Dig Deeper: Read and discuss God’s Word.

1. When it comes to money (spending, saving, or giving), which of these comes most easily to you, and which is most difficult for you? Discuss with the group.
2. Read Matthew 6: 19-20. Think of your wealth – your time, talents (abilities, skills, etc.), and treasure (finances). What percentage of your life would you say is focused on earthly or heavenly treasure?
3. Read Matthew 6:24. How has the principle of “you cannot serve two masters” been reflected in your life?
4. Read Matthew 19: 16-26. What is the rich young ruler asking for?

In what ways was this the wrong question?

How does he give the wrong answer?

Why does Jesus tell the young man to sell everything?

5. Read Matthew 19:27-30. What does Jesus teach us about eternal rewards?

How can we live more focused upon eternity?

6. Read Proverbs 3: 9-10. How does knowing that you're just borrowing the things God has given you affect the way you treat your wealth and possessions?

APPLY

Take a step by applying what you learned to your life this week.

1. Read 1 Timothy 6: 6-10 and 1 Timothy 6: 17-19. How do these verses explain some of the ways we can apply Jesus' teaching from Matthew 6: 19-24 (which we just read)?

How do they help us see what "storing up treasure in heaven" looks like?

2. Would someone be willing to share the story of how you started giving courageously and consistently to the church? What made you decide to do that? Did you start out by tithing 10%, or did you start smaller and build up? Has there been anything surprising about what has resulted from your commitment to give courageously?

3. Share with your small group what God is showing you and your next steps (action plan) to follow Him.

4. The FORWARD Initiative is your chance to make room in your finances for the sake of others and God's kingdom. You can take part in this initiative by:
 - a. **Committing to tithe for the next 25 months.**
 - b. **Giving sacrificially over-and-above your normal offering**
 - c. **By pledging to give courageously, consistently, cheerfully, and creatively. (further explanation on back of booklet inside cover.)**

PRAY

Talk to God and listen to what He tells you.

Wrap this week up by praying for what God will do in and through Fairway Christian Church this season. Pray together asking God to work ahead of us in the FORWARD Initiative vision and pray expectantly that He will provide financially.

READING PLAN: Close your meeting with these short readings.

- Proverbs 23: 4-5
- 1 John 4: 19
- 1 Peter 1: 3-4
- Malachi 3: 10-11
- Matthew 6:33