

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Jan 27, 2019

Mastering Money: Investing In Eternity

Pastor Temple 8:15, 9:30, 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday, on Some Biblical Advice For The Broke?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Questions: How might the concepts of financial investing also relate to living by Christian Faith? (i.e. Risk-reward trade-offs, Return on Investment ratios, Opportunity costs, Asset security...)

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Matthew 6:19-34. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ²⁵ “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 than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ 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? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ 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—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Investors in the eternal have eyes for three things in particular: God's Word, God's Kingdom and God's people. Are you ok if the term of payout for this investment is very long-term?
- Are there short-term benefits that Christians can expect after choosing to follow Christ? If so, like what?
- An argument for choosing to believe in God called Pascal's Wager is as follows: "If there is a God He is infinitely incomprehensible. Reason can decide something here. You must wager. Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. There is ... an infinite of infinitely happy life to gain. If you gain, you gain all. If you lose, you lose nothing. Wager then, without hesitation, that God is." How does this argument impact your motivation to invest your whole self in knowing, loving and serving God?
- Pastor Temple said, "The stock market is filled with individuals who know the price of everything and the value of nothing." How does following Christ impact our "value-system?"
- According to verses 25-34, what role does worry have in the life of a follower of Christ? How does a new value system impact the degree to which we worry about things?
- How do you distinguish between being "worried" and being "responsible?"

Other Related Scriptures (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read Proverbs 11:23-28. What seems to be a common theme throughout these verses?
- How do verses 23-27 describe the experience of being a generous person?
- Verse 28 introduces the element of "trust." How does trusting in riches lead to falling but trusting in God lead to flourishing? What kind of "fall" do you believe the writer of Proverbs means here?
- How does where we place our trust affect what we choose to invest in in life? How does it impact worries in our lives (looking back to Matthew 6:33-34)?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- As you take stock of your life, what adjustments do you feel God is calling you to make in the eternal areas of God's Word, God's Kingdom and God's People?
- Missionary Jim Eliot once famously wrote, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." What financial, social, and personal strengths do you believe God is calling you to invest in His kingdom this week and how?
- Have you submitted an estimate of giving card toward the ministries of Christ Church in 2019 yet?
- FYI- next week we are looking at all the various ways people can serve and grow in God through Christ Church!

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- How has this sermon series on Mastering Money affected your awareness of stewardship as it relates to God's work in the church and in the world in Christian witness?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.