



SERIES: Walking with Jesus

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Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21, Proverbs 6:8

TITLE: Invest Where You Cannot Lose

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. Yes, every morning. However, it debits what is left over at the end of the day. Every evening, it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do?

Do you realize that each of us has such a bank in our lives? Its initials are T.I.M.E. Its name is TIME. Every morning, you get 86,400 seconds added to your account. Every night the minutes not used for a better purpose are erased. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

You must live in the present on today's deposits. Therefore, you and I should invest each day like it's our last and invest in the things that matter most. And this is what we want to talk about today. Matthew 6:19-21 (CSB).

“Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Okay, Jesus clearly isn't American. His investment strategies are different than what we were taught. So what exactly is He saying?

Well, let me start by telling you what He is not saying: First, He isn't telling us to sell all our possessions. To become poor for the sake of being poor is not a spiritual virtue. Now, God might call you to give up something. He might call you to give up a lot. But a prerequisite to following Jesus isn't giving up everything, but instead giving up anything He asks. Are you willing? Am I willing?

The second thing Jesus isn't saying is that having possessions is bad. The Bible teaches a right to have things: money, property, homes, animals, and so on. Look at Abraham, Solomon, Job, and others. You see the issue isn't the possessions, it's the dependence on them for security and safety. Is your hope in your stuff or in God? Remember, He has promised to meet all of our needs. We don't need to worry about tomorrow. God's got it covered. So, do you own your stuff, or does your stuff own you?

The last thing that Jesus isn't saying is that planning, working and saving for the future is wrong. Proverbs tell us to learn from the ants. **“They labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter”** (Proverbs 6:8). Paul wrote the Corinthians stating that parents are to provide and save up for their children (2 Corinthians 12:14). So Jesus isn't saying to not plan and save.

So what is Jesus teaching us by telling us to avoid stockpiling our earthly treasures and invest in heaven? Well, it's an investment tip to investing where we cannot lose. Invest in others.

And that's my challenge for you today. Invest in someone else. A literal translation of Jesus words would be "don't treasure up treasures for yourself. The alternative is investing in others. Identify one person in the body of Christ you can invest in. Whether it's the investment of your finances, your time, or your talent. Identify them and invest in them. And do the same for someone who is far from God. Make the intentional investment in someone who does not know Jesus.

When we invest where we cannot lose, we will win today.