

Day 19: Apprenticing in Generosity

([Matthew 6:19-21](#) & Proverbs 11:24-25)

Jesus addressed money and building wealth regularly in his teachings. This is so interesting that even two thousand years ago, in a completely different time and cultural context, money was a real concern that was front of mind for those who followed Jesus. But what he had to say about it was counter to what many of them had been taught before. And, likely its different than what most of us have been taught about money too.

What have you been taught about money by your family? By our culture? By the church?

Our focus scripture for today is Matthew 6:19-21

Do not 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 do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

A healthy savings account or a growing retirement fund are things that most of us would identify as wise money priorities. And if we get to the heart of our motivation to save and invest it often comes down to security for our future. In these verses, Jesus is telling his followers that our ultimate security doesn't come from our savings accounts here on earth. Instead, our trust for the future should be invested in God and His Kingdom. Earthly investments are dependent on an earthly economy that is fallible and uncertain. But to truly walk in apprenticeship to Jesus means investing in something much greater, the good and heavenly things of the Kingdom. Radical, Christ-like generosity means pouring out our whole lives in pursuit of God's Kingdom. This, of course, involves our finances, but it also means our time, our relationships, our vocations, our gifts and talents. We are to be open handed with all of them. Offering them to God knowing He has already secured our future by the sacrifice Christ made for us.

Pause to ask God to reveal to you places where your heart has been invested in the things of an earthly Kingdom. Ask Him to show you a place you can invest in His Kingdom.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice – a way to say “yes, Lord,” read through all of Matthew 6 and do a HEAR note on what God is showing you through this chapter about investing in the Kingdom. At the end of the HEAR note as your response take what God has revealed to you through prayer and His word and tell God what step you are willing to take in your apprenticeship of generosity.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us listen to the words of Proverbs 11:24-25: One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor. A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.