
Only Jesus

Part 6 - Treasures

The devil is very good at telling lies. So good that he doesn't start with an outright lie; he starts with the truth and then laces it with deceit, just enough that they become acceptable lies appearing as truth.

Romans 1:25 says that we have, *"exchanged truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the creator"* (Romans 1:25)

It's easy to start believing a lie rather than the truth either about God or what He says, and before long we end up worshiping and serving the created thing rather than the creator.

It is not the truth you can quote, or that you simply know, but it is the truth that you do that guides your life into its ultimate outcome.

The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10: 17-22)

- + Wealthy
- + Educated
- + Genuinely committed to God
- + Desiring to grow
- + Seeking answers from Jesus
- + Unaware or not willing to address who he really served

A Loving Look

Jesus looked at him and loved him (Mark 10:21).

The challenges Jesus gives us to draw closer to Him are always done out of love.

Knowing how difficult this word may be to this young man and to us, Jesus' motivation is love that desires the best for us.

Four Commands

- + Go
- + Sell
- + Give
- + Follow

You must get rid of your old master before you can follow your new one.

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. Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

Somewhere on this young man's privileged journey he started to tell himself the lie that he can serve two masters.

In one sentence Jesus brings the real meaning of what it is to be a disciple, to be a sold-out follower of Jesus – EVERYTHING comes as a lower priority than following Jesus.

The proof that something is true in your life is not that you know it, but that you can live it out. Jesus put it another way – "If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15).

What is the lie we have been believing about Jesus' invitation to follow Him? What is the lie about everything coming under His Lordship that we have bought into? What is the lie you may have been telling yourself about money and God?

It's Not Just Hard – It's Impossible! (Mark 10:23-25)

Jesus is deliberately using an illustration about an impossibility. You cannot serve two masters, God and money.

The point is not that it's hard; the point is it's impossible for people to serve two masters. The only way is surrender.

Somehow, we have bought the lie that what we have, what we earn, the treasures we possess are ours. But the truth is nothing is mine. I brought nothing into this world; I will take nothing out of this world.

Most of us are not called by Jesus to give away everything. Here's what we are all called to. Surrender our lives and our wills and our resources and our money to God. And the most tangible expression of this, is to give, to become a giving person, to give systematically, to give joyfully, to give generously, to give willingly.

Our Opportunity

- + Our giving is currently at 2/3rds of budget for the last two months.
- + If giving remains at 2/3rds of budget, we will be down \$1.2M in 2021.
- + We have a faithful core of 400 givers who give 90% of all direct gifts.
- + The budgeted average giving per regular Riverlife attender 18 or older is less than \$1,900 per annum.
- + If the average income of our 1,300 regular attendees aged between 25-65 (working age) was \$50,000 and they tithed to Riverlife (gave 10%), our expected income would be \$6.5m per annum.
- + If everyone surrendered their finances to God and gave systematically and generously, there would be no lack to fulfill the vision God has given us.

If you live a life of surrendered generosity to God, you will receive the joy of helping others. You will receive the wonder of God being involved in your financial life so you can give more. You will grow less selfish. You will become more grateful. You will be freed to follow Jesus.

Online Giving

If you would like to set up regular giving to Riverlife, please use the following details:

ACCOUNT NAME Riverlife Baptist Church

BSB NUMBER 704-913

ACCOUNT NUMBER 400 039 640

REFERENCE Tithe, Offering or Donation

OR

Text to Give: SMS Riverlife – 0488 202 202

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss what it looks like to be generous. Share examples of recent generosity that have been shown to you.
2. Are there areas in your life where you have been believing a lie about God and treasures that is impeding the breakthrough?
3. How can you increase in being generous towards others and thereby reflect the nature of a generous God?
4. How do you go about ensuring that you aren't serving money instead of God?
5. Do you give God the first of your income by at least tithing to the church? Discuss.