

Teaching Notes

Introduction:

I. We're Designed to TREASURE

Mankind's "Treasure Principle" (Matt. 6:19-24)

1. _____ seeks some kind of treasure.
2. The thing that is my treasure controls my _____.
3. What controls my _____ controls my _____.

It's not _____ to seek personal treasure/gain/reward.

It's a Sound Design, yet it's our _____ that is corrupt.

Resources for additional study:

III. We're Given Grace to CHANGE

Things to consider as you seek God's grace to change:

_____ your need and His disposition to give.

_____ from any known sin(s).

_____ forgiveness (from God and others).

_____ in His finished work.

_____ the help of others.

Sample Questions of the Heart

(Source: *X-Ray Questions: Drawing Out the Whys and Wherefores of Human Behavior*, by David Powelson in the JBC, Fall 1999)

In what or in whom do you trust?

(Proverbs 3:5, 11:28, 12:15; Psalms 23, 103, 131)

What do you think about most often? What preoccupies or obsesses you? In the morning, to what does your mind drift instinctively? What is your "mindset"?

(Colossians 3:1-5; Philippians 3:19; Romans 8:5-16)

What are your idols or false gods? In what do you place your trust, or set your hopes? What do you turn to or seek? Where do you take refuge? Who is the savior, judge, controller, provider, protector in your world? Who do you serve? What "voice" controls you?

(Ezekiel 14:1-8; Acts 26:18; Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:9f; 1 John 5:21; Jeremiah 17:5; James 4:11-12)

Practical "Money" Questions

Is the idea that it's okay to pursue personal rewards in heaven something new to you?

- If so, how can this bring encouragement and relief?
- If this is not new, how can a reminder of this principle affect your current financial life?

Who handles the finances in your household? How familiar are you with the details? What affect do you think this has on reducing your wife's temptation to anxiety?

Evaluate the state of debt in your household (including mortgage, student loans, auto loans, credit cards, and any other forms of personal debt).

- Would you say that your debt has you somewhat enslaved to the lender (e.g., significant portion of income goes to service debt, a dependence upon two incomes, prevents you from otherwise making decisions to spend time and money in other areas, etc.)?
- Do you see any need to change?

What are your biblical convictions regarding giving?

- What is the role of the tithe? Freewill offering?
- Is 10% your starting point or ceiling?

Have you experienced giving in ways that the math just didn't add up?

- What were the circumstance and results?
- Did giving in a sacrificial way have an effect on your attitude toward material things?
- When was the last time you had this experience? If not recently, why?

Do you have a plan for some level of current savings to help with future emergency expenses? What will your income allow? What's responsible?

Are there specific men in your life who are aware of the details of your financial life and are acquainted with the particular ways in which you can be tempted to set your heart on earthly treasure?

- How easy do you make it for them to bring observations and ask questions?
- How have you recently benefited from their care?

In what three ways can you see a need for change in the way in which you handle your family's finances?

Can you see a connection between the mercy and grace of God available through the Cross and how that can be a help to you in this area of life? (Rom 8:32)