



Southwest Indian Ministries Camps

Elementary Devotional

October 2022

Store treasure in Heaven by using the blessings God has given you.

Have you ever saved money to buy something that you really, really wanted? We can save up to “buy” heavenly rewards when we use the things God has given us to serve him.

Introduction:

People in America have a real problem: we don't know how to save money. By and large, Americans are terrible at setting aside money. As soon as we get it, we spend it. We live paycheck to paycheck, burning through every dollar we earn in between. Kids spend their allowance as soon as it's in their hands. Adults spend their earnings the weekend they get paid.



Wise people know better. They know that the smartest thing to do whenever they get money is to set some aside. You may already have savings accounts started in the bank. That's because your someone decided early on to save for your future, for college and beyond. You may also have savings accounts sitting on your dresser. Piggy banks and other coin collectors are a great way to learn to set aside and save some money.

You might have also gone through the challenge of saving up for something big that you wanted. It wasn't easy, setting aside a dollar here and there, waiting weeks and weeks for your saving to pay off, but it was a great moment when you finally had enough to buy the thing you really wanted!

Money saved today can help us with big expenses and unexpected challenges in a few years, but what about when we get to Heaven? The Bible makes it very clear that the things of this world, including money, are going to stay here. All your money, all the things you buy with your money, will have no value in Heaven. They won't even exist!

But that doesn't mean we will be empty handed in Heaven. Jesus says that all of us can store up treasure in Heaven, and early on in his ministry, he taught his followers the key to earning some of that treasure while still here on Earth.

MATTHEW 6:19-24

Treasures in Heaven

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.

Main Point:

Jesus tells us that real treasure is found not on Earth, but in Heaven. If the money and things of this world are going to stay here when we die, what value do they really have? True treasure is something that will last for eternity, and that is what Jesus is talking about here.

Jesus has given all of us gifts and blessings that he wants us to use for him. That includes our money, but it also includes our time, our talents, and our passions. God wants us to use these gifts for him. The gift of music, the gift of wisdom, the gift for teaching, all of these are things we can spend for Jesus, using them to share Jesus with others.

When we spend these gifts, we don't lose them like we do our money. We store up real treasure. Investing our time, talents, and gifts is how we can save up a treasure that will never fade away, a treasure we can only find in Heaven.

Jesus isn't saying we shouldn't save money. The Bible talks a lot about money, and it cautions us not to spend all we have. Jesus wants us to be wise stewards of our money, using it to provide for ourselves and our loved ones as well as donating it to the church.

Money has its purpose, but money cannot be our god. When we care more about our money than we do about God, we are pursuing the wrong thing. Money can't save us from our sins, and money will not go with us when we die.



Jesus gives us blessings like money so we can invest them in His Kingdom. When we give to the church, to missions, and to other ministries, we are investing in Heaven. Our money helps to spread the gospel of Jesus around the world, and that investment can earn us treasure in Heaven.

Jesus has given us other blessings in addition to money, things like our talents, our passions, and our gifts. God wants us to discover these gifts, and he wants us to put them to use.

Heaven is a real place, and it's worth saving for. The sooner you start saving, the more treasure you'll find when you get there. Ask God to show you how to use the blessings he's given you. Invest the talents, the time, and the money the Lord has placed in your care, use them for Jesus, and you will store up real treasure in Heaven!



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Answer the questions and mail to: SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave | Peoria, AZ 85381.

Please print legibly.

Camper's Name:

Mailing Address:

Text #:

E-mail:

1. Why does Jesus say we can't serve two masters, God and money?
2. Why is heavenly treasure more valuable than worldly treasure?
3. Why does Jesus say, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also?"
4. What gifts has God given you that you can spend for him?
5. What is one thing you can do this week to use one of your gifts for God?

DO NOT WORRY

Help the crowd find Jesus to listen to his parable.

