



# *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*

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WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

**Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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## **Welcome**

The Treasure Principle is: **“You can’t take it with you – but you CAN send it on ahead.”**

**Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV)** <sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **Keys to the Treasure Principle:**

1. God owns everything, I’m His money manager
2. My heart always goes where I put God’s money.
3. Heaven, not earth, is my home.
4. I should not live for the dot, but for the line.
5. Giving is the only antidote to materialism.
6. God prospers me, not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.

### **INTRO:**

**JOY!!** One of the key underpinning foundation stones: Living God’s way with earthly stuff leads us to experience God’s JOY!! as He intends.

Book is about the joy of giving not motivating out of guilt, 1

### **CHAPTER 1, “Buried Treasure”**

**Matthew 13:44 (ESV)** <sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**15% of everything Jesus said relates to the topic of using money and possessions**, more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined, 9/3

There is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money, 9/3

Each answer John the Baptist gave in response to demonstrating fruit of spiritual transformation relates to money and possessions, 9/4

**Luke 3:11–14 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

Our approach to money and possessions isn't just important, it is **central** to our spiritual lives, 10/4  
Foolish living is Earthly Realm Upside-Down approach to them.

**Luke 12:13–21 (ESV)**

HERB: “THE EXCHANGE!” *“It is not sacrifice if what you get is of greater value than what you give up! God’s offer of “the exchange” is to give up our temporary lives to receive eternal lives that are of greater value than anything we can even imagine.”*

We don't feel sorry for the example of the traveler, even though it cost him everything, rather we envy him because his sacrifice pales in comparison to his reward. 11/5

***“If we miss the phrase, ‘in his joy,’ we miss everything! 6***

The Treasure Principle is Matt 6:19-21. Jesus does NOT teach that earthly treasures are bad but to store them up in eternity not on earth because **they won't last!** Wealth will **always** be lost, 13/ 6-7

Earth's currency will become worthless when Christ returns. Keep ONLY ENOUGH to meet short-term needs, (Civil War Southern currency example), 14/7

Christ **WANTS** us to store up treasures... WANTS us to have enlightened self-interest, because everyone gains and no one loses when we do so. ***What is to God's glory is always to our good!*** It's about deferred gratification, not no gratification, 16/9

**Treasure in Heaven** is power, possessions, pleasures (same as 1 John 2:15-17), but the greatest and ***ultimate Heavenly treasure is Christ Himself,***

First, a Person - Christ.

Second, a Place – Heaven.

Third, Possessions . 16-17/10

Emphasizes the second part of the Treasure Principle: ***You can't take it with you but you can send it on ahead,*** 18/11

Holding on to the earthly is surrendering the valuable for what lasts only a moment/ the money God entrusts to us here is eternal investment capital, 19/12

***“Don't ask how your investment will be paying off in thirty years (as do human financial planners), Ask how it will be paying off in thirty MILLION years.”*** 12

This revolutionary concept will change your life – gain both immediate and everlasting version of what man found in the hidden treasure – **JOY!** 12

## **CHAPTER 2 (New to 2027 Edition), “Was Jesus Really Talking About Financial Giving?”**

Matt 6:19 (above) – Jesus’ command to not store up treasures on earth, 13

Luke 12:13f (above), parable of rich fool – demonstrates consequences for those who ignore His command, “Fool!” 13

“storing up treasures for yourself on earth means hanging on to money and possessions rather than generously sharing them.” 14

Heaven is the location of God’s throne. Present Heaven will be relocated to the New Earth as the center of God’s ruling Presence. Heaven WILL be a REAL, MATERIAL place. 14

Treasures or riches in Matt 6 normally means, “accumulated wealth in the form of money, jewels, or other valuables.” They are real, meaningful rewards for those who give generously, 15

**Matt 6 – transfer your wealth from one place to another...** when we die earthly treasure will no longer be ours, but wealth we’ve transferred to Heaven will remain ours forever. 15

God will give us eternal rewards for doing good works, persevering under persecution, showing compassion to the needy, treating our enemies kindly, 16

Treasures in Heaven will include entrusting faithful children with positions of leadership in proportion to their service on Earth, 16

Three reasons that reveal that in Matthew 6 Jesus really was talking about giving away our earthly treasures to help the needy, 17

1. the immediate context, Matt. 6:1-20
2. the clear wording of Matt 19:21  
“valuables” means treasure, wealth, riches, following up in v. 24 in mentioning money, p. 18
3. parallel passages in other Gospels and Paul’s letters –  
Luke 12:31-34, Mark 10:21, 1 Timothy 6:18-19

### **Luke 12:31–34 (ESV)**

**Mark 10:21 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup>And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

**1 Timothy 6:18–19 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

***“Jesus’ message is convicting and clear: it’s all about giving and rewards for giving.”***

HERB: this points to the satanic strategic to appeal to our USD nature to amass earthly wealth that we see in affluent Christians, Christian leaders and Christian ministries.

“In this context ... storing up treasures focuses particularly on the compassionate use of material resources to meet others’ physical and spiritual needs, in keeping with the priorities of God’s Kingdom.” 21

***Jesus WAS talking about financial giving!!***

## **CHAPTER 2/3 “Compounding Joy”**

Example: the ER unfair losses the Alcorn family experienced that was actually God leading them to experience Him, His Truth and His way of life that is truly life... and the Kingdom impact they could not have imagined!!

HERB: they learned that the Christian life is **ALL about TRUST!** A “this is going to be good” attitude.

**Key 1: God owns everything, I'm His money manager, 25**

**Psalm 24:1 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

**Haggai 2:8 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup>The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.

**Deuteronomy 8:18 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup>You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

**1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)** <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

HERB: This is more nuanced than we typically realize. We are more acclimated to the culture than we recognize and thus blind to ways we are living by ER unless and until God opens our eyes and we cooperate

(NOTE: page numbers in the revised book are about the same in old book from this point)

***Being a Steward...***

Need to adopt a steward's mentality toward the assets God entrusts to us. A steward manages for the owner's benefit, no sense of entitlement, find out what owner wants and carry out his will, 25

Whenever we think like owners, it is a red flag. One day we'll undergo a job performance evaluation. Our name is on God's account., 26

***One of our central spiritual decisions is determining what is a reasonable amount to live on, 27***

Example of givers telling stories, "fun, joy, exciting, wonderful"

God delights in our cheerfulness in giving. The cheerfulness of giving often comes during and after the act of obedience, not before it. So don't wait until you feel like giving! Just give and watch the joy follow.

***God WANTS us to find joy.***

He **WANTS** us to find joy. He even commands us to rejoice (Phil 4:4), ***But if we don't give we're robbed of the source of joy, 29***

Giving isn't a luxury of the rich. It's a joyous privilege of the poor. Impoverished Christians in many countries find great joy in giving.

Macedonian Christians (2 Cor 8:2-4), were dirt poor but came up with every reason they could to give. we seem to come up with endless justifications for not giving, 30

**2 Corinthians 8:2–4 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

When Old Testament Tabernacle was being built people were so caught up in the excitement of giving that elders had to tell them to stop giving, they had too much. ***That's what giving will do to you, 30***

**Exodus 36:5–7 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup>and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do." <sup>6</sup>So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, <sup>7</sup>for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

***"God uses giving to conform us to His image."***

... gaze upon Christ long enough and you'll become more of a giver.

... give long enough, and you'll become more like Christ, 31

## 2 Corinthians 8:1–6 (ESV)

2 Cor 8:1-6 – giving is an act of grace. Christ’s grace defines, motivates and puts into perspective our giving, vs. 9. ***Our giving is a reflexive response to the grace of God in our lives, it comes out of the transforming work of God in our lives,*** 31

### REALITY CHECK:

*As thunder follows lightning, giving follows grace, when God’s grace touches you, you can’t help but give. Giving is simply an overflow of joy.*

*When we’re not givers, it means we’re not being permeated by His grace and the joy that’s inseparable from it.* 33

### FRINGE BENEFITS OF GIVING

“giving has brought me closer to God than anything else.” – Mark (in conversation with author) when we lose focus, giving infuses us with God’s energy, purpose and joy and we feel God’s pleasure, (Eric Liddel’s words), 33

Before anything else, ***giving is an act of worship,*** 34

Giving ***jump-starts our relationship with God***

Giving ***empowers your prayer life. Give,***

Caring for the needy flows out of knowing God, and ***draws us closer to Him.***

Giving brings ***freedom*** - it breaks us out of our orbit around our possessions, 35

Giving infuses life with ***joy,*** 35

Examples of non-Christians who discovered God’s giving principles embedded in His creation, 35-38

## CHAPTER 3/4 “Eyes on Eternity”

Contrast of Borden and King Tut graves and epitaphs. Borden, “Apart from faith in Christ there is no explanation for such a life.”, 38

If you trust scripture, you will be filled with anticipation for your heavenly home. Heaven will be a place of rest and relief from sin and suffering; but it will also be a place of great learning, activity, artistic expression, exploration, camaraderie and service.

HERB: everything good on earth is a taste, a shadow, a tease of Heaven.

God is keeping track of our smallest acts of kindness, a record of all we do for Him, including giving, so that He can reward us in eternity. (Malachi 3:16), 39

You must believe it is right to want to do what Jesus tells you to do: ***store up for yourself in Heaven.***

Scripture brims with passages in which God promises rewards for our faithfulness to Him.

***Rewards are God’s ideas, not ours!***

**Luke 14:13–14 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup>But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

our instinct is to give to those who will give us something in return/ giving is a giant lever on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different, 41

***Giving is a giant lever positioned on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different – for others and for us.***

Many Christians dread the thought of leaving this world ... because so many have stored up their treasures on earth and not in Heaven, 44

EX: John Wesley, "I think you're going to have a hard time leaving all this."

EX. Laverne, dying of terminal cancer... "What else matters than hearing 'Well done...'? Why should I care about anything else?"

**KEY 2: My heart always goes where I put God's money.**

Show me your bank records and your Visa statement, and I'll show you where your heart is.

What we do with our money doesn't simply indicate **where** our hearts are. According to Jesus, it **determines** where our hearts **go**.

illustration: buy shares in a company and you suddenly develop an interest in that company

***As surely as the compass needle follows north, your heart will follow your treasure. Money leads; hearts follow.***

This is a remarkable truth. If I want my heart somewhere all I need to do is **put my money there**.

If want more of a heart for missions (or anything else), **put your money there**. YOUR HEART WILL FOLLOW. 44

***God wants you heart.***

**REALITY CHECK**: we need to feed, clothe, house and transport our families. ***But when basics are taken care of, why shouldn't the rest go toward treasures in Heaven?***

He who lays up **treasures on earth** spends his life **backing away from his treasures**.

To him, death is LOSS.

He who lays up **treasures in heaven** looks forward to eternity; he's **moving daily toward treasures**.

To him, death is GAIN

He who spends his life moving away from his treasures has reason to **despair**.

He who spends his life moving toward his treasures has reason to **rejoice!**

***Are you despairing or rejoicing?*** 45

**Takeaways...**



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