

Series: Imitate

Title: “Giving”

Text: Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Mark 12:41-44

Main Thought: Where you spend your time and money is what reflects your heart.

Intro/Me: Have you ever walked into the store to pick up one small item but walked out with way more than you need? Money, money, moneyyyy!!! Everyone wants it. Most people think it will make you happy. But if you look around, you will notice that money doesn't always equal true happiness and fulfillment.

Video transition: To help us see how powerful MONEY, Money, moneyyy is...watch this video on a SPENDING SPREE: [Show video](#)

We all want STUFF. I have a confession to make. **Story: Wanting my favorite toy!**

Did you know there are around 2,350 verses that talk about money and possessions in the Bible! We are always looking to what others have and it becomes an obsession. **We always compare with others on what they have and what do not have.**

Question: What do people spend money on?

We – You can break it down into two areas. NEED or WANT. There is a difference between need and want. That line becomes blurred sometimes.

God OWNS it all. It all belongs to God, that is what matters. We are stewards of God's resources. We are to manage it WISELY. ILL: Old car – “blue beast”

Why do you think we struggle to spend money wisely? We think that money is just physical, but it is a spiritual decision. How we handle and use money says a lot about us!

“Giving is a heart issue; it reveals your true feelings and beliefs.”

2 Corinthians 9:7: “You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

How are we to look at the issue of money and how it relates to God’s Word...? The Bible talks about money!

1. Giving reveals our heart motives. (v. 19-20)

God: Matthew 6:19-21: “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your own heart?

10 - Take me to the ER, I need heart surgery fast.

1 - I’m pretty much like Jesus

Watch your eyes – ask, “do I need this?” – EYE = HEART

“I have got to have this!”

“I can’t live without having it”

Eve in the Garden of Eden – Looked with lust after the forbidden fruit

2. Giving on earth will be rewarded in Heaven (v. 21)

Matthew 6:21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Giving is worship. How we give our time and money will be rewarded in Heaven.

What is the connection between your money and your heart?

Background: Pharisees believed that rich people were signified as having a divine blessing – God’s favorites.

Jesus looks at the heart more than the outward:

Mark 12:41-44: “Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. **42** Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.**43** Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. **44** For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”

She gave everything she had to live on! All she gave was around 2 cents! She trusted God to provide for her although she didn’t have much at all.

How much do I give to God? Tithing is the least we should do as a follower of Christ. 10% of income to God. It is interesting that most people find it harder to give more when they make more income. As you make more money, your heart will be revealed.

What happens when you put God over money?

Read Mark 10:23-25: **23** Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” **24** This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear

children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. **25** In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

Money is a spiritual issue – not just outward!

3. Giving is a sign of a follower of Christ (v. 24)

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Make a decision:

You – What makes you satisfied? Are you storing up treasures in Heaven or just on earth? Is God the king of your wallet or is you next “want?”

Us – Where you spend your time and money is what reflects your heart. Where do you spend money? Are you content?