



THURSDAY 11.11.10

Matthew 6:19-22

If security is gaining something we can't lose, then stuff, money, success and achievements can't give us security. These are tools and gifts God gives us to use; "stewardship" is the word we often think of — God's stuff he loans to us for his purposes and our blessings. But still, none of these things can give security. In the recent drop in the economy, many experienced a great deal of financial loss. Some lost home value, others lost values in pension plans, some lost income from job decline and job loss. Anything we give away is never really lost, it is a "treasure laid up in heaven." These words of Jesus speak so much of the generous life. According to Matthew, this generous act became an eternal moment laid up in heaven.

- What are some of the ways we can lay up treasure in heaven?
- How do we redefine what treasure really is, what is really of value, as we learn to refocus around the teaching of Jesus Christ?
- What do you think Jesus means when he says don't store up treasure on earth?



FRIDAY 11.12.10

Acts 20:33-35

When the Bible uses the word "blessed," it most often means "happy" or more accurately, a "contented joy." It is not an easy word to translate, but it is easy to know what Jesus was saying. Giving creates a contented joy in life that receiving cannot give. This is one of the core values of Jesus Christ and how he lived his life.

This simple verse has a compounding promise, "God's blessings accompany the generous life!"

- One of the things many of us learn about money is "dollar cost averaging." This just says that investing each month when the market is up and down should, over the long haul, work out to the advantage of the investor. This is not always true, but the idea is good. What if we approached giving the same way, giving as we receive when times are good and when times are bad?
- How can this create a life of blessings and a heart of joy?



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Thank You*
Message: *Where Are You Taking Me?*
Scripture: **Philippians 3:1-9**

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:



Introduction

In Philippians chapter 4:4-7, a road to a life of peace is presented in simplicity and faith. Here peace is more than just a feeling of security or comfort; it includes peace with God and in God. It is a supernatural peace released by our faith and God's faithfulness to work in our lives, in the details of our daily needs and in the depths of our souls. Some of the key ideas are prayer, thanksgiving, requests, supplications, and yes, the peace of God that guards our hearts and our minds through Christ Jesus. Last week the Bible told us to guard against greed. Here it says God's peace will guard our hearts and our minds through Christ Jesus.

Peace comes from building a relationship with God through trust and faith. Many in our world try to build peace by gaining more wealth, attempting to control people in their lives and working like crazy to create personal security. Yet, this doesn't seem to work. One of the reasons is that anything we can gain, we can lose. But when God gains us — lock, stock and barrel — he will not lose us. Security and peace are experienced only by faith in God's faithfulness.

I rejoice in you, my God.

My prayers _____

My requests _____

What I am thankful for _____

Peace.



MONDAY 11.08.10

Luke 12:13-21

This part of the Bible has more "I's" than almost any other part of the Bible. The rich man says, "What shall I do?" . . . "I have no place to store my crops" . . . "I will do" . . . "I will tear down . . ." "I will build" . . . "I will store my" . . . "I will say to my soul, eat drink and be merry."

But God knows something the man does not know, that he is about to die, and all he has, all he has trusted, all he has worked for, all he believes in, he is about to lose. "Fool," God says!

- The Bible doesn't criticize the man because he is successful, but it does criticize the man for not being "rich toward God."
- Why does our culture seem to encourage us to build bigger barns?
- Where does the fear that drives this come from?
- How can we live in such a way that we become rich toward God?



TUESDAY 11.09.10

Luke 15:11-14

This is the story of the Prodigal Son, the story of a young man who asked for his inheritance early and got it. It seems that this access to immediate wealth went to his head, and he felt independent and free to live as he chose with no restrictions, no accountability and boundaries, or so he thought. In a short time, the Bible says he "squandered" the entire estate his father had given him so generously. After facing this "myth of independence," he heads home hoping his father will take him back. He wasn't independent after all; he needed his father, just as we need God no matter how much or how little we have, no matter how successful we seem or how big a failure we think we are.

- How is the myth of independence that wealth creates reflected in your life?
- What is the real truth of dependence?
- Who are we really dependent on?



WEDNESDAY 11.10.10

Luke 16:10-13

Read this passage more than once. It is a powerful verse that shines the light of heaven on the hearts of those who will open their hearts to it. Any servant has only one master, one they have accepted the obligation to serve. If they choose to serve another as well, they will experience divided affection, split loyalties and end up serving neither. Life and spiritual life will become chaos.

- When we choose to serve God, we are held in the hands of this loving and powerful master! When we choose to serve money, we hold it in our hands and will eventually lose everything!
- Why do you think that Jesus talks about money so much?
- In what ways are you tempted to serve money instead of God?
- What are some of the ways that you can serve God unreservedly?
