

1 Hold Tight or Give Away

²¹Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²²When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. **MATTHEW 19:21,22**

The rich young man could not let go of his great possessions when Jesus asked him to. Instead, he went away sorrowful, for he had become attached to his material wealth. While accumulating wealth and enjoying the fruit of our labor is not evil, we should not let anything we own be the center of our worship. We are called to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us, allowing ourselves to be a channel of God's blessing to others. Was there a time that you chose material possessions over the command of God?

2 Earthly Treasure or Heavenly Treasure

¹⁹"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **MATTHEW 6:19-21**

The rich young man wanted to know how he could inherit eternal life. He knew about the commandments and followed them, so Jesus asked him to give away to the poor the great possessions that he had acquired for himself here on earth. Our relationship with God casts a different light on how we regard material possessions. Earthly treasures are temporary and may be destroyed or taken away by others; but heavenly treasure lasts forever. How can we store up treasure in heaven?

3 Self or God

²⁵"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" **MATTHEW 16:25,26**

The rich young man chose, in the end, not to follow Jesus, because it was difficult for him to give up his earthly possessions. But as Jesus said, there is no use gaining the world if you give up your soul for it. Jesus said that if your life is given up for His sake, you will surely find it again (Matthew 16:24-26). In faith, we believe that our reward is eternal. Tell of a time you chose God over yourself. What happened?

APPLICATION

- Do you have a relationship with God where you devote yourself to Him and His purpose for your life? If not, would you want to have one today?
- Do you find it hard to extend generosity to other people? What do you think are the things that hinder you from being generous to others?
- In your own way, how can you be a channel of God's blessing to other people? Is there a specific person that God is telling you to bless this week?