

INVEST IN WHAT LASTS
Series: Faith, Finances & A Fresh Start
February 14, 2021 — Next Steps Devotional Guide
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1. Read Matthew 6:19 from your sermon notes. Jesus commands us not to store up treasures here on earth because they are not going to last. We all know this. So, why do you think we still do this?
2. Read Matthew 6:20-21 from your sermon notes. Take a few moment to evaluate. Jesus says that where our treasure is, the desires of our heart will be also. As you look at all your “treasures,” where does it say the desires of your heart are?
3. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-19 from your sermon notes. When we read or hear the word “rich” we tend to think of Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, and only very wealthy and rich people. So, when we read this passage we think, “*Well, this is not talking about me.*” If you have any coins in your pocket. A few pennies, nickels, any coins in your pocket or your purse, if you have any coins in a little tray in your car, if you have any coins in a saucer at home, you’re already wealthier than about 78% of the world. Only 4-5% of the world’s population own a refrigerator. Only 5% of the people in world own a computer. You’re rich.
 - a. How could you use your money to do godly and good deeds?
 - b. If you currently are using your money do godly and good deeds, why are you doing this and what has it taught you about you?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 11:2 from your sermon notes. This verse stresses what is called “diversification” — not putting all your eggs into one basket so that you minimize the risks. Pastor Kelly introduced to you to five different “funds” you can invest that were developed by Michael Cadrette — a Christian financial coach.¹ Pastor Kelly took these and adapted them for this sermon.
 - a. The first one is called “God’s Growth Fund,” which is about growing your character through discipleship. Read Proverbs 10:16 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, “*Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.*” Now, read Luke 2:52 under this same point. Jesus grew in four areas: spiritually, intellectually, relationally/emotionally and physically. How could you use your money to grow . . .
 - i. Spiritually >
 - ii. Relationally/emotionally >
 - iii. Intellectually >
 - iv. Physically >
 - b. Read Proverbs 23:23, Proverbs 16:16 and Isaiah 55:2 from your sermon notes under point #1. Are you building your life on junk food or are you feeding yourself “soul” food? Explain.
5. Using my money to show love to other believers reveals these three points:
 - a. It proves I’m in God’s family. Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-13 from your sermon notes under point #2-a, under the heading, “*Using My Money To Show Love To Other Believers . . .*” 2 Corinthians 9:12-13 says that when I help other people who are believers, it does 3 things: (i) it helps their needs; (ii) it meets their needs; and (iii) it brings thanks to God. How could you do that this week.
 - b. It creates unity. Read Psalm 133:1 from your sermon notes under point #2-b. How does using your money to help other believers create unity?
 - c. It is a witness to unbelievers. Read 3 John 1:5 from your sermon notes under point #2c. How does using your money to help other believers serve as a witness to unbelievers?
6. The third fund to invest in is called “God’s Service Fund,” which is about helping others through ministry. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, “*Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.*” What does this verse say to you?
 - a. The late Christian financial adviser Larry Burkett, “*Do your giving while you’re living, then you’re knowing where it’s going.*”² Give it while you’re still alive. How could this benefit and bless you if you did this?

¹ <https://www.michaelcadrette.org>; <https://www.haikudeck.com/gods-growth-fund-inspiration-presentation-q34YwwR4Ak#slide7>.

²Rob Moll, What Your Body Knows About God (InterVarsity Press, 2014), page 108.

- b. Read Psalm 72:12-14 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”* God creates “God moments” — moments where God causes your path to cross paths with another person for the sole purpose for you to minister to them. When was the last time this happened? What did you do?
 - c. Read Matthew 9:36 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”* When you are in a restaurant, a grocery store, at gas pump, in a classroom, in the gym, in a store, in a doctor’s or veterinarian room, do you look around at the people and does your heart break? Jesus’ heart broke when He did this. Does yours? If not, why?
 - d. Read Proverbs 11:24 under point #3 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”* What do you think this means for you personally?
 - e. God’s heart is always on the side of the poor. Always! Read Proverbs 28:27, Proverbs 19:17 and Proverbs 21:13 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”* How does giving to the poor demonstrate your love for God?
 - i. Why can your actions towards the poor change your heart and strengthen your relationship with God?
 - ii. God will repay us for aiding the poor, but not necessarily in this life. The very best reason for helping the poor isn’t that God will pay us back, but to give testimony to God’s love. In what ways does our helping the poor reveal the character of God?
7. The fourth fund you should give to is called “God’s Global Fund,” which is about reaching others through missions and evangelism.
- a. If you have never been on a mission trip, why? Have you sponsored someone else to go? Why?
 - b. Do you share your faith with others? Why or why not? Sharing your faith with unbelievers is NOT about memorizing a presentation on witnessing or pointing out to others where they are wrong and sinful. It is simply about sharing with others the difference Jesus makes in your life. No one can tell your story but you. If you were to go purchase a car, would you trust more the words of the sassy salesman or a satisfied customer who has bought from that salesman or dealership? Obviously — the satisfied customer. See yourself as the satisfied customer with Jesus. Who could you be that “satisfied customer” with over the next few weeks?
 - c. Read Luke 16:9 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”* Jesus’ point in this passage is: *“Invest in getting people into heaven so that when you get to heaven they will welcome you there.”* The greatest investment of your life is you investing in getting people into heaven. There is no greater investment. How can you be more intentional with people at work, at school, in your neighborhood, and etc. with your time, or talents, or money, or your material possessions?
 - d. Read 3 John 1:8 and 2 Corinthians 9:13 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”* Even if you cannot go on a mission trip because you have small children at home or you have health issues, you could help with Southside’s C.R.E.W. Ministry (i.e., C.R.E.W. = Christians Read, Equipped and Willing) or find creative ways to do this. Instead of making excuses as to why you can’t, how about make an effort. Instead of putting off, how about jumping into it? What could you do to impact the lives of unbelievers for Jesus Christ?
8. The fifth fund you should give to is called “God’s Treasury Fund,” which is about praising God in worship through tithing.
- a. Read Proverbs 3:9 and Deuteronomy 14:23 from our sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”* How does tithing show God’s importance in your life? How does tithing reveal you are becoming more like Jesus?
 - b. Read Matthew 6:19-21 and Job 22:24-25 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”*
 - i. What type of treasure does your life reveal you want? — earthly treasure that will disappear or heavenly treasure that will last forever? Explain.
 - ii. What obstacles do you face in committing your time, your talents and your treasures to God? How could you overcome this?
 - c. Read Deuteronomy 8:11-16 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *“Store Up Your Treasure in the Following Funds.”* What does this passage want to remember and warn you about personally?