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Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24

Meeting Jesus in Matthew: Heavenly Banking

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Introduction:

1. **(Slide #1)** You just heard **The Celebrity Apprentice** opening theme song Money Money Money.
2. These are the opening words to a gameshow about celebrities winning money for their charities.
3. It's originally by the O'Jay's, "For the Love of Money."
4. The song tells us that money is mean and bad but it's also the "almighty dollar"
5. Money is "no good" but "some people really need it."
6. Have you ever felt controlled by money, or like you never have enough?
7. Jesus doesn't want money and the pursuit of things to control you either.
8. Jesus teaches his followers to not invest in this life but the next.
9. He teaches his disciples to put their time and energy into heaven, not earthly success.
10. In Matthew 6:19-24, Jesus teaches us to invest in something we can't see—invest in your eternity today.

(In Matthew 6:1-4 Jesus assumes we already give.)

(In verse 2 he says, "When you give to the needy.")

(His main point is that we give to please God instead of to impress others.)

(Giving an offering at church is not wrong unless you're doing it to show off.)

(Jesus wants us to give quietly, humbly, and sacrificially to please God.)

(In our passage today, Jesus is teaching us to invest in our eternity in this life.)

(Jesus gives us three reasons why we should **invest in our eternity today...**) **(Slide #2)**

I. **Reason #1.** Heaven offers an imperishable reward (**Read v. 19-21**)

A. Earthly treasures are perishable, temporal, and unsatisfying.

1. The Jewish people had storerooms or treasure boxes where they stored their valuables.
2. They could have stored material (clothing) or monetary (coin/jewelry) possessions.
3. Moths and their larvae eat fabrics made of animal hair, so cashmere, wool, and fur.
4. The Greek word for "vermin" is sometimes translated "rust" but really means "eat away."
5. I worked at Indian Village where we had Norwegian Sweaters on the back shelf (green, orange).
6. They sold for hundreds of dollars and used to be super popular in the 80s, but no longer.
7. Each year we closed the store, we packed them away in plastic bags or the moths would eat them.
8. Norwegian sweaters used to sell, but over time they went out of fashion and lost their value.
9. We invest in things that 20 years from now won't really matter, how about an eternity from now?
10. Treasure is anything we value most. What's yours? Money? Clothes? Grades? Career? Friends?

(Earthly treasures are perishable, temporal, and unsatisfying.)

B. Heavenly treasures are imperishable, everlasting, and satisfying.

1. Jewish houses were made of mud bricks and maybe plaster so thieves dug through the walls.
2. Today we have siding, insulation, dry wall, and two coats of paint, but is it really more secure?
3. Revelation 21 tells us that our eternity with God is more real than this life.
4. The author describes God's city as being made out of gold and precious jewels.

5. We're going to live in a new heavens and new earth unmarred by sin or death.
6. Would you rather invest in drywall made by man or a gold wall made by God?
7. Verse 21 tells us that whatever we spend our money on is what we care about most.
8. If you look at your bank account, it probably means you value your mortgage, car, and family.
9. None of those are bad, but we can become consumed by them (avg. \$15K household CC debt).
10. We want to invest in heavenly treasures that are imperishable, everlasting, and satisfying.

C. We invest in eternity by giving our **money** to God. (Slides #3-4)

1. "Tithe" means "a tenth part"—every week we give our "tithes and offerings" after the sermon.
2. **Proverbs 3:9** "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the **firstfruits** of all your crops;" (NIV)
3. The tithe was the first 10% of their harvest, so anything beyond that is a freewill offering.
4. When you tithe 10% of your income to God by giving it to the church, it symbolizes 100%.
5. God doesn't need our money, but we give to him to show him we trust him with everything.
6. If you're not tithing, I encourage you to begin to give 10% of your paycheck (training wheels).
7. **Malachi 3:10** Bring the **whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out **so much blessing** that there will not be room enough to store it. (NIV)
8. The primary reason we don't tithe is because we don't trust God to take care of our needs.
9. God says, put your faith in me and I promise you won't be disappointed.

(Invest in your eternity today.)

(Reason #1. Heaven offers an imperishable reward.) (Slide #5)

II. **Reason #2.** It helps us live life the right way now (Read v. 22-23)

A. It helps us live life the right way now.

1. When Jesus says your "eye is the lamp of the body" he means it focuses us and directs us.
2. You can root for the Broncos, Panthers, or Clydesdale (eye protectors direct gaze).
3. We all wear blinders that directs our focus, our "whole body" (TV, family, friends, school).
4. The iris in your eye determines how much light get's in as your pupils adjust.
5. Our eyes and focus are the pathway to our souls (Let in light or darkness?).
6. Next week we're talking about anxiety and worry, which are largely a result of our focus.
7. Jesus is saying, what you spend your time and money on is what you care about.
8. I do believe God created this world and said it was good, so we can enjoy it.
9. Is what you're focusing on healthy and draw you to me or push you away?
10. When we keep eternity in mind, it helps us live life the right way now.

B. We invest in eternity by giving our **time** to God.

1. There are two ways to give your time to God, as the gathered church and the scattered church.
2. The **gathered church** is any time you serve God with a group of Christians.
3. This includes: Saturday worship, weekly small group, Ministry Team, outreach event.
4. Just like you give 10% of your income, a good starting point is giving 10% of your workweek.
5. Four hours gives you time to serve on Saturday, join a small group, and help on a monthly team.
6. We invest our time as the **scattered church** when we're away from Christians but loving God.
7. This includes Bible reading, prayer, cooking, cleaning, and going to work for Jesus. (Slide #6)
8. **1 Cor 10:31** So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do**, do it all for the glory of God.

9. Are you being ethical at work? Praying for your coworkers? Serving your family sacrificially?
10. We invest in eternity by giving our time to God.

(Invest in your eternity today.)

(Reason #1. Heaven offers an imperishable reward.)

(Reason #2. It helps us live life the right way now.) **(Slide #7)**

III. Reason #3. It frees us to fully love and serve God **(Read v. 24)**

A. It frees us to fully love and serve God

1. The idea of having two masters is different than us working two jobs.
2. When you were a slave, your master owned you (you likely lived with them, indentured).
3. We're all created to have a master, either God or money (deified/personified "mammon").
4. Notice there's no option to "be your own master" because humans are created to worship.
5. Do you serve/love Jesus and hate money or serve/love money and hate Jesus? How do we know?
6. Which one serves the other for you? Does Jesus serve your money or your money serve Jesus?
7. Do you only pray to Jesus when you need something? Then Jesus serves your money.
8. Or do you use money to honor Jesus (family, church, healthy pleasures)? Your money serves JC!
9. When we're not bound to worldly things, it frees us to obey Jesus in whatever he asks us to do.
10. Loving Jesus frees us to fully love and serve God.

B. We invest in eternity by giving our **message** to other people.

1. The message we give is a freeing message, inviting people to let go of the things that bind.
2. None of us can perfectly tithe, give of our time, or love Jesus instead of money.
3. But we try, because **in Jesus** we've already done these things spiritually.
4. The Son of God gave up the riches and power of heaven to be born as a baby boy in a manger.
5. Jesus looked at you and me as his "treasure" and was willing to sacrifice himself for us. (Joy)
6. He's the only one to perfectly serve God the Father as his Master.
7. He has won your spiritual freedom, so you no longer need to be enslaved to this world.
8. If you put your faith in Jesus, you will be free indeed.
9. You can invest in eternity by sharing the freedom you have in Christ with others.
10. As the gathered church, you can do this by inviting a friend to Cornerstone.
11. As the scattered church, you can do this by invading other's lives with Jesus.
12. We invest in eternity by giving our message to other people.

(Invest in your eternity today.)

(Reason #1. Heaven offers an imperishable reward.)

(Reason #2. It helps us live life the right way now.)

(Reason #3. It frees us to fully love and serve God.)

(Invest in your eternity today.)

Conclusion: **(Slide #8)**

1. Maybe some of you have heard the story of the rich young man.
2. In Matthew 19:16-22, a rich young man came up to Jesus and asked...
3. "What do I have to do to get eternal life, to go to heaven?"
4. Jesus tells him to "keep the commandments"—to obey God.

5. So he asks Jesus, “which ones do I need to obey?”
6. Jesus lists off the Ten Commandments, “Don’t murder, commit adultery, steal...”
7. The young man says, “I’ve done all of that, what else do I need to do?”
8. Jesus replies, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Matt 19:21)
9. The Bible tells us the rich young “went away sad, because he had great wealth.”
10. What if the rich young man had given it all away and followed Jesus?
11. Maybe we would know him today as the one who gave everything up for Jesus.
12. Maybe he would have changed the world along with Peter and Paul and the other disciples.
13. What are you holding onto that is keeping you from Jesus? It’s not worth it...
14. Jesus gave it all up for you—let him help you give it all up to follow him.
15. Invest in your eternity today.

Benediction: Philippians 4:19-20 NIV “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”