



IceBreaker: What was the last thing that you trained for and did you find the training to be effective?

Introduction *(Read aloud before discussion.)*

We are concluding our series on training in godliness as we chat about the spiritual exercise of regular generosity.

Sermon Discussion *(Use as a guide for dialogue; let God lead, and read the verses aloud.)*

1. **Matthew 6:19-20.** Is Jesus really saying Don't put money away for retirement? What is Jesus trying to bring up in these two famous verses? What question is he trying to ask his disciples?
2. When we see the phrase "treasures in heaven", we tend to think of heaven as far and later, but Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven is near and now. How does this understanding change this verse?
3. **Matthew 6:21.** We would expect Jesus to say the reverse: "where your heart is, there your treasure will be." Jesus is saying that where you choose to put your treasure, you will eventually find your heart. Jesus is saying that your practices actually lead your life! Do you agree?
4. **Matthew 6:33.** Put the kingdom first financially, and you will be taken care of. Notice a practice and a promise. We have emphasized the promise, but what would it look like to emphasize the practice?
5. Travis made five statements about New Testament giving:
 1. *We are new covenant people, and therefore we can become trusting, cheerful, naturally generous givers.*
 2. *We are not under the law, therefore we don't have to give 10%. No more guilt, shame, condemnation, pressure, or compulsion!*
 3. *We've been given new hearts, and therefore a new question: "What is in my new heart to give to God through the church that I love?" What a fun and intoxicating question.*

4. *We are not into the law, so we don't have to stop at 10% either! We can continue to grow, excel and abound in the grace of giving.*
5. *So, New Testament giving is an "All Play" (everyone plays). Why would anyone not do what is in our new heart to do?*

How does this change how we think about generosity and how we might talk to someone about generosity?