



September 20, 2020  
"Material Management"  
Matthew 6:19-34  
Pastor Gary Hamrick

How are Christians supposed to be responsible for the material aspects of life without the need for material things becoming a greed for material things? The material is certainly not sinful; it's needful. But how much is enough, and how can we use what God has given us to make an eternal difference in the lives of people? In today's message Pastor Gary teaches about the counsel Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount.

Use What God Has Given You Now  
To Invest In Kingdom Work That Impacts People For Eternity

1. **Matthew 6:19-21** – *"Do not lay up yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*
2. "If you own something you cannot give away, then you don't own it, it owns you."  
– Albert Schweitzer <sup>1</sup>
3. Pastor Gary said, "What [Jesus] means by *'treasures on earth'* is the accumulated excess. ... It's beyond the things that are needful. ... It's the accumulation of stuff that we don't really need. Americans are experts in accumulating stuff we don't really need."
  - a. The average American throws away sixty-five pounds of clothing annually.
  - b. Ten percent of all Americans have one or more storage rental units.
  - c. There are more than 50,000 storage facilities in the United States.
  - d. Currently, there is 7.3 square feet of self-storage space for every man, woman, and child in America, which means it's possible for every American,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/851066>

at the same time, to stand under the canopy of self-storage roofing!

4. John D. Rockefeller
  - a. Rockefeller was at one time the wealthiest man on the planet. In today's dollars he would be wealthier than Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, and Warren Buffett combined!
  - b. He was asked, "How much money is enough?" Rockefeller answered, "Just a little bit more."
5. Pastor Gary said, "The truth is that we all think [like Rockefeller]. ... Jesus [was] cautioning us that if we have so much clothing that moths are eating it, and we have so much silver and gold that it's corroding, [then] maybe we have too much stuff, and what we really need to be doing with our excess is... to use it for God's glory to make an eternal difference, [and make] an eternal investment. ...The better investment is eternal. ... When we have a kingdom mindset about earthly goods, and therefore use them in a way that glorifies God for the sake of the eternal lives of people, then we are making an eternal difference and laying up treasures in heaven. ... People can tell a lot about us by the way we spend our money. [The way we spend our money indicates] what we really love."
  - a. When a person gives financially to the church, he or she is laying up treasures in heaven.
  - b. When a person gives financially to support parachurch ministries like Samaritan's Purse, etc., he or she is laying up treasures in heaven.
  - c. When a person gives financially to support missionary work that helps meet spiritual and temporal needs, he or she is laying up treasures in heaven.

See God As Generous And Be Generous Too

6. **Matthew 6:22-23** - *"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"*
7. Pastor Gary said, "[A person] with a good 'eye' is optimistic and sees the good in things and in people, and in circumstances. [They] have a positive disposition in life. ... [If a person] has a bad 'eye' means that [they] don't see life that way. [They] see things through the lens that life is bad and negative and terrible. ... The way Jesus [uses the idiom is in] the context of... having a good 'eye' means that [a person] has a good perspective of God, and [they] see God as the source of every good and perfect gift... and that God is the owner of everything and we are only the stewards of [it]. ... [This] shapes your view of material things. And therefore when you have [a] good 'eye' of God, you mimic him and you are generous like he

is. ... [A person with a bad 'eye' doesn't see God] as the source of blessing and the source of everything [they] have... [They won't have the right perspective of God, so they are the exact opposite of the person with the good 'eye'].”

- a. **James 1:17** - *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

### Serve God As The Only True Master

8. **Matthew 6:24** - *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*
  
9. Pastor Gary said, “Someone has said that money is a wonderful servant, but it is a terrible master. If we use money for good purposes, then it’s served its purpose well. But if we are consumed with the ‘almighty dollar,’ then we will be in bondage to a terrible master. ... You can’t have split devotion. You can’t say, ‘God is my master but not in regard to my stuff.’ ... Either Jesus is Lord of everything in our lives or he is lord of nothing. ... You are either going to be consumed with [the Lord] as your master or you are going to end up serving... and being consumed with material things.”
  - a. Mammon
    - i. Mammon was a reference to an idol of materialism.
    - ii. There is no historical reference to Jews worshiping the god of mammon.
    - iii. However, Jews used the term to describe something that was materialistic.
    - iv. “To some their belly is their mammon, and they serve that; to others their ease, their sleep, their sports and pastimes, are their mammon; to others worldly riches; ... the praise and applause of men...; in a word, self,... is the mammon which cannot be served in conjunction with God; for if it be served, it is in competition with him and in contradiction to him.” - Matthew Henry <sup>2</sup>

### Seek First The Kingdom Of God And His Righteousness, And God Will Take Care Of You

10. **Matthew 6:25–34** - *“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds*

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Mat/Mat\\_006.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Mat/Mat_006.cfm)

*them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."*

11. Pastor Gary said, "[I think Jesus anticipated what people] would be thinking if they really [took] the challenge of being generous. ... The tendency [would be that if people thought about being generous, they] would think that they would be naked, and poor, and homeless. ... Don't worry. ... You can't out give God. ... He's going to take care of you."

a. Illustrations

- i. Jesus didn't use the illustration about birds to mean that people don't need to work because birds work to feed themselves every single day.
- ii. Pastor Gary made a joke about the fact that there are no birds on Prozac because they are at rest and at peace.
- iii. The Robin and the Sparrow by Elizabeth Cheney <sup>3</sup>
  1. "Said the robin to the sparrow, 'I should really like to know, why these anxious human beings rush about and worry so.' Said the sparrow to the robin, 'Friend I think that it must be, that they have no Heavenly Father such as cares for you and me.' "

12. Worry

- a. "Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength." - Corrie ten Boom <sup>4</sup>
- b. "Worry is like a rocking chair: it keeps you moving but doesn't get you anywhere." - Corrie ten Boom <sup>5</sup>
- c. Pastor Gary said, "Worry turns our heart away from God. ... The answer to worry is prayer."

13. Trust God

- a. **Psalm 37:25** - *"I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."*

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/714001-the-robin-and-the-sparrow-said-the-robin-to-the>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/corrie\\_ten\\_boom\\_135203](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/corrie_ten_boom_135203)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/40-powerful-quotes-from-corrie-ten-boom.html>

b. **Philippians 4:6-7** – *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

i. Pastor Gary said, “In the midst of whatever you are going through, when God visits you in a wonderful way with his peace, it won’t make rational sense. People will look at you and [wonder] why you are at peace even though there are bombs going off in your family. ... When [we] lay our cares at his feet and [we] pray and [we] seek him with prayer and supplication and [thanksgiving, he guards our] heart and mind in Christ Jesus with his peace.”

14. Pastor Gary concluded his message with selected lyrics to the hymn “What a friend We Have in Jesus” written by Joseph M. Scriven.<sup>6</sup>

### Discussion Questions

1. Read **Matthew 6:19-34** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss the Albert Schweitzer quote Pastor Gary shared concerning the way things can take ownership over us. (See #2 above)
3. How has the Lord helped you gain a biblical understanding about possessions, etc.?
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about the data that shows Americans as a whole are holding on to more and more “stuff.” (See #3 above)
5. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary’s remarks about the way God’s Word encourages Christians to use their financial resources. (See #4 and #5 above)
6. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about what it means to have a biblical understanding of the generosity and goodness of God. (See #7 above)
7. How has the Lord helped you to change from a ‘keeper’ into a ‘giver’?
8. How do you feel when you use your resources to make an investment in eternity and you practice generosity?
9. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s remarks about the impossibility of serving God and money. (See #9 above)

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<sup>6</sup> <https://hymnary.org/media/fetch/144065>

10. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's comments about seriously embracing a changed mindset. (See #11 above)
11. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about the ways the Holy Spirit helped them worry less and trust God more.
12. Read and discuss the Corrie ten Boom quotes (See #12 above)
13. Read and discuss Psalm 37:25 and Philippians 4:6-7. (See #13 above)
14. If you have someone in the group who is able to lead the singing of a hymn, close your Bible study time and enter into prayer by singing the hymn "What a friend We Have in Jesus."
  - a. Use this link to download a free PDF - <https://hymnary.org/media/fetch/144065>
15. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)