

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Joy, Good, Good Father, You Are Good, I Lift My Hands

WELCOME

Treasure Hunt. Describe your life treasures and share with your group where are they found.

WORD

MATTHEW 6:19–21

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Storing up treasures in heaven is a command of Jesus to His followers. It is our individual accountability which we cannot ask other people to do for us, but a decision we make for ourselves. We store up treasures in heaven when we obey God’s commandments which are summarized into two: Love God and love others (**Matthew 22:37-39**), which also means give to God and give to others our treasures such as our time, talent, heart, goods and services.

Give to God. We give to God when we pray, fast and abide in Him (**Matthew 6:6**); when we share the Gospel, and make disciples (**1 Corinthians 3:8; John 4:36**).

Give to Others. We give to others when we share and care with them (**Matthew 25:34-40**); and as we give to them, we shall receive rewards from God according to our giving (**Matthew 10:41-42**).

BLESSINGS UPON BLESSINGS

There are different kinds of people with different kinds of giving attitude. Let us name them with four laws of giving with an acronym N.A.M.E.

Giving Attitude	Results	Blessings (±)
Not care	Not much blessing	Awesome curse
According to	Abundant blessings	Advanced blessings
More than	Multiple blessings	Multi-generational blessings
Even if	Eternal blessings	Eventual blessings

Not Care. The Bible has a warning for those who do not care to store up treasures in heaven: their wealth on earth can be swept away instantly when calamities or tragedies in life occur (**Matthew 6:20**). They work hard but they earn little and their earnings disappear instantly, for they live in luxury while neglecting the work of God (**Haggai 1:6,9**). If we do not care to give, the result is we receive curse rather than blessing, because we rob God of His tithes and our offerings (**Malachi 3:8**).

According To. For those who store up treasures in heaven, they will receive abundant blessings because their treasures in heaven are protected from earthly tragedies and calamities (**Matthew 6:20**). If we bring all tithes and offerings, God promised to pour out His uncontainable and unimaginable blessings upon blessings (**Malachi 3:10**). When we fulfill our giving, He promised to bless us now and onward (**Haggai 2:18-19**). When we give according to His command, the result is abundance and we receive the blessings in advance.

More Than. Our heart follows where our treasure is. So, if we give more, it means we love God more. One of the main characteristics of generous givers is that they are cheerful. We can also learn from King David who gave more than, for the house of God (**1 Chronicles 17:1; 29:3-4, 6-9**). For his generous giving, God promised to make His name famous, to subdue all his enemies and build a house for him and a dynasty of kings (**1 Chronicles 17:7-10**). King David ruled for 40 years and was blessed by God with wealth, honor and long life (**1 Chronicles 29:27**). When we give more than what God asked, the result is multiple blessings and the blessing is multi-generational (**1 Chronicles 29:30**). During the reign

WORD (cont'd)

of his son Solomon, silver and gold were so plentiful as stones in Jerusalem (**2 Chronicles 1:15**).

Even If. Whatever bad things that may happen in life, there are those who continue to give and trust in God who is faithful to provide for all their needs. We can learn from Habakkuk who found joy and rejoicing in the LORD, even when there was no produce and harvest (**Habakkuk 3:17-18**), and from David who would dwell in the house of the Lord, even though his life is threatened (**Psalms 23**). When we give even if life is not easy, we will receive eternal blessing, like what the widow who fed Elijah with her last piece of meal for herself and her son (**1 Kings 17:13-15**) and

the widow who gave the two mites which were all she got (**Luke 21:1-4**). When we give even if life is hard the result is eternal blessing with eventual blessings.

Let us be faithful in giving according to God's command and for giving more than what we are able even if life is difficult so that when we meet God face to face, we will not be ashamed. Giving comes with a privilege to receive God's blessings. Give according to your income, or God may make your income to be according to your giving. God is generous and can give us more than our giving. Our giving gives God the reason to bless us more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Treasure Insurance.** Why should we store up treasures in heaven not on earth according to **Matthew 6:19-20**?
2. **Giving Attitude.** Describe your giving in the aspect of tithes and offerings. What hinders you from giving, if any?
3. **Faithful Giving.** How are you storing up treasures in heaven? In what ways will you be faithful in giving?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Prepare a sort of Giving Plan this Christmas where you can apply the learning principles today on investing your treasures in heaven.

Sample subjects for the Giving Plan:

1. Pledge for the building project
2. Donating to Uplift Noche Buena Package
3. Evangelistic Christmas thanksgiving
4. Garage sale for a cause
5. Feeding program

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends