

Our God, Our Time, and Our Money

Remembering God Has Spoken About Such Things

Matthew 6:33

The common decisions of everyday life are the practical clinchers in a successful relationship with God (I Jn. 3:18; Lk. 16:8-10). However, when we think about such ordinary concerns, we are prone to undervalue them or think they are things under our personal discretion. The things of this temporal existence, however, comprise one of only two basic priorities available for the direction of our loyalties (Matt. 6:19-24). How we relate to the resources of wealth and time are large in God's evaluation of our lives. Where we come down in such "small" things, says much about the course we take in the larger matters of life (Matt. 25:21, 23; cf. Matt. 23:23-24).

Additional Verses to Consider

1. Ecclesiastes 5:10
2. Ecclesiastes 7:12
3. Micah 3:11
4. Matthew 19:23-24
5. Matthew 13:22
6. Proverbs 6:9
7. Proverbs 15:19
8. Proverbs 20:4
9. Proverbs 22:13
10. Proverbs 26:16

Stories to Illustrate

1. The Rich Fool (Lk. 12:13-21)
2. The unfaithful but Shrewd Steward (Lk. 16:1-13)
3. The Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30)

Extremes are prevalent in the types of choices we have considered. Richness toward God allows for the successful possession of wealth (Lk. 12:21). We need not take a vow of poverty to be acceptable to God. Also, rest and recreation are part of a balanced life (Ex. 34:21; Mk. 6:31). Excessive work carries its own dangers. Nevertheless, the Scriptures we have noted do carry a serious message. Our focus and our priorities can all too easily become tied to temporal concerns. Let us remember to meditate regularly on such things.

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