

## Lesson Ten: Our Accountability to God

**Objective:** To recognize our ultimate accountability to God.

**Read:** Luke 19:12–27; Matthew 24 & 25

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### Introduction

Many Christians miss the special blessing of God because they do not obey our Lord's command recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: *"Do not lay up for 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"* (Matthew 6:19-21).

Jesus knew that by storing up treasures on earth, we would soon take on the appearance of the world. Through selfish desires, we would cease to reflect the character of God and seek our own glory. By laying up treasures in heaven, on the other hand, we would declare the glory of His kingdom.

Everything we do to bring men and women into the kingdom of God, every act of kindness and every expression of love is laying up treasure in God's storehouse. We give out of love for God and we give out of gratitude for His sacrifice for us through the gift of His only begotten Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

God will hold us accountable for our motivation in giving and for our faithful obedience to our Lord's command to help fulfill the *Great Commission* and so reach the world for Christ. The apostle Paul wrote: *"For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God....So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."* (Romans 14:10, 12).

Relating the parable of the shrewd manager, Jesus said: *"There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'"* (Luke 16:1-2)

As faithful stewards, our primary financial responsibility is to help worthy ministries reach the largest possible number of people for Christ. We are accountable to our Lord's last command before He ascended into heaven to *"go and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19).

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### Bible Study

As faithful stewards of God's resources, our primary responsibility is to help fulfill the Great Commission. If God were to call you to account for your stewardship, what would you say to Him (Luke 16:22-31; Hebrews 4:13; 1 Peter 4:5)?

In what ways do you see our modern day American culture "storing up treasures on earth...or...in heaven"?

Look over your spending for the past month. What percentage did you give to God's work?

## Personal Reflection

*To plan your giving for the this year and next, go through the materials below sometime this week.*

Begin by asking God how much and where He wants you to find opportunities, use your abilities and wealth. Write these ideas down.

Prayerfully develop a **systematic** plan for giving each **month** in each of these **areas**:

- How do I find *opportunities* to serve the Lord?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can I use my *abilities*?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Can I do more with my *wealth* to further the mission of Calvary?

Plan to set aside some time and resources for needs you may become aware of at your church, in your neighborhood, or other places.

Dedicate your plan to God. Ask Him to use your resources to bring the greatest glory to His name.

