

Series Based Sermon Prompts

You Have Heard It Said
Week 1

Theme: Financial success is a sign of God's blessing

Text: Matthew 6:19-24

This is one of the most commonly used stewardship verses. There's so much here! "Storing treasure in heaven," "where your heart is, there your treasure is," and "you can't serve God and money." It feels like an abundance of sermons could be created using just these five verses from Matthew 6.

As you prepare to preach - consider the following:

- How might you spend time unpacking the harm and bad theology that has been attached to these verses? What might the GOOD NEWS be within them?
- How does Jesus' teaching challenge our current attitudes and behaviors towards wealth and possessions? What are some common pitfalls we face in our pursuit of financial security or material abundance?
- What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven? How do we even do this? What does it mean to serve God and money? (Clarifying what Jesus means here could do a lot of good in your preaching and teaching this stewardship season)
- How can our stewardship of money reflect our hearts? What are the dangers of allowing money to become our master rather than serving as our servant?
- You have heard it said that financial success is a sign of God's blessing. Why might this not be true? What is the lesson instead? What does this have to do with stewardship?

FROM PASTOR MATTHEW:

If I were preaching this text, I would share my own moments of grumbling that the thing I wanted happened but not the way I had hoped and how it was only when I was able to look back that I realized it was the right thing.

My favorite therapist once said that the difference between our expectations and reality equals feelings. Big difference, big feelings. So grumbling isn't necessarily bad, but things "not going as we expected" doesn't mean they aren't good, and it certainly doesn't mean that God isn't still with us.