

THE BLESSING OF INVESTMENT

Revelation 22:12 KJV|

“¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my *reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*”

Mark 9:41 KJV|

“⁴¹ For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, *he shall not lose his reward.*”

INTRODUCTION

INVEST

verb

1. *expend money with the expectation of achieving a profit or material result by putting it into financial schemes, shares, or property.*

The definition of the word “invest” can also be defined within this parable:

Matthew 13:44 KJV|

“⁴⁴Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and **selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.**”

*The man in the parable made a worthy investment by purchasing the field wherein he discovered the treasure. Though he sold all that he had to buy the field, he did it with the understanding that the treasure found within the field was **far greater in quantity than what he gave to achieve it.***

This principle is also reinforced by the Lord in this parable:

Matthew 13:45-46 KJV|

“⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a **merchant man**, seeking goodly pearls: ⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, **went and sold all that he had, and bought it.**”

*Merchants were businessmen whose livelihood was based upon the wise trades they made. These were men and women who specialized in **wise investments.** They understood the importance of spending quantity to receive quantity in*

greater dividends. In this parable we see a merchant man finding a pearl of great price. Understanding the value, that possibly other merchants simply overlooked, the merchant wisely made the decision to invest all he had in order to purchase the pearl. One can safely assume that this merchant did not purchase this pearl to help the seller with his revenue. In fact, we can confidently conclude that he purchased the pearl knowing full well that he would personally benefit from it.

Illustration:

Mel Fisher was a famous treasure hunter who spent his life seeking the sunken ship called the **Nuestra Senora de Antocha and the Santa Margarita** that went down during a hurricane on September 6, 1622 near Key West, Florida. Mel spent 16 years, thousands of dollars on equipment and staff, and endured over 100 court battles in order to find the treasure. Finally on July 20, 1985 his investments paid off when he and his crew discovered \$450 million dollars worth of treasure. This included 100,000 Spanish silver coin, gold coins, Columbian emeralds, silver and gold artifacts and over a 100 silver bars. Mel Fisher's investment, though much, was light in comparison to the reward he received on that day.

- As Christians, we often equate the work of God as being our duty or our responsibility. Although this is true, the work of God is also an investment worthy of our **contribution**.

- Serving the Lord with our resources isn't a matter of giving with no return but rather it is giving with the expectation that ***we will*** achieve a profit in ***due season***.

Galatians 6:9 KJV|

“9 And let us not be weary in well doing: ***for in due season we shall reap***, if we faint not.”

Proverbs 19:17 KJV|

“17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.”

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN OUR ETERNAL INVESTMENT

1. THE GREATEST VENTURE IS FOUND WITHIN ETERNAL INVESTMENTS

John 6:27 KJV|

²⁷Labour not for the meat which perisheth, **but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life**, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”

1 Timothy 6:19 KJV |

¹⁹Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, **that they may lay hold on eternal life.**”

- It goes without saying that nothing last forever... Except for that which we send ahead unto eternity.
- We, as temporal beings, often seek to possess material things that can last us a long time. Whether clothing, houses, vehicles, devices etc., we like getting what we pay for. We understand that quality cost quantity and are willing to spend top dollar if we know that it will withstand the test of time.
- We also value the companies that promise us a “**your money back**” or that have a good **return policy**. Why? Because we want the security of knowing that what we purchase goes far beyond the value of what we gave.
- Yet the Bible teaches us in Matthew 6:29,

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, **where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:**”

- In the midst of our temporal mindset, God in His eternal wisdom reminds us that no matter the quality of our possessions, we still don't get to take anything with us after this life.

1 Timothy 6:7 |

“For we brought nothing into this world, *and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*”

- ***In fact some of it we might even lose in this life!***
- In Matthew 6:20 we find the greatest **RETURN POLICY** in history ,
“20 ***But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,*** where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”
- If the resources we have are to ***lay hold on eternal life,*** they must be invested into the work of God here on this earth.
- The greatest venture that we as God's people can be a part of is that which ***counts for eternity.***
- A wise steward views his investments based upon the immediate as well as the eternal returns that he will receive.

ILLUSTRATION

It is said that King Tut's tomb (the Egyptian pharaoh) was worth well over \$21,000,000. The ancient Egyptians believed that the Pharaoh's could bring their earthly treasure with them, yet his tomb (along with his treasure) remained undisturbed for more than 3,000 years. Although the items within the tomb were of high value, its idleness rendered it worthless for 3,000 years.

Listen to words of Christ in this respect:

Mark 10:29-30 KJV|

*“²⁹ And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, ³⁰ **But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**”*

- The Lord assures us that investing in the Kingdom of God **will** render us rewards not only in this life but also in the life to come.

Mark 9:41 KJV|

*“⁴¹ For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, **he shall not lose his reward.**”*

2. LARGE RETURNS REQUIRE LARGE INVESTMENTS

2 Corinthians 9:6 KJV |

*“⁶But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which **soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.**”*

- God compares investing and giving as **sowing seeds**. This of course is a great illustration due to the fact that a seed, though small, has a potential of mass proportion.

Matthew 13:31-32 KJV |

*“³¹ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard **seed**, which a man took, and **sowed in his field**: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”*

- It is no question that if we are to receive a great return, **the quantity of our investment must be great as well.**
- And though this is true, God understands that the “bounty” of one believer differs from the “bounty” of another.

- It is for this reason we are to sow bountifully based upon that which we have. We would refer to this as “***equal sacrifice not equal giving.***”
- But in either case, in order to expect a large return from the Lord, we need to invest ***bountifully into the work of God.***

3. ETERNAL INVESTMENTS REQUIRES DECISIVE ACTION

1 Timothy 6:17-18 KJV |

*“¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; ¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, **ready to distribute**, willing to communicate;”*

- The venture of eternal investment requires ***readiness***. We, as God’s merchants, need to be ready to distribute while the ***opportunity is available to us.***

Matthew 26:8-11 KJV |

*“8 But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? 9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. 10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me. 11 For ye have the poor always with you; **but me ye have not always.**”*

- Although investing in helping the poor was important (though Judas had an ulterior motive) The Lord was trying to communicate that pouring the expensive ointment on him was **a once in a life time opportunity.**
- We too need to be ready to distribute and to capitalize on the opportunities given to us to make eternal investments.

Consider the words of this poem:

*“When as a child I laughed and wept, time crept. When as a youth I dreamed and talked, time walked. When I became a full grown man, time ran. And later as I older grew, time flew. Soon I shall find while traveling on, **time gone.**”*

- Readiness to distribute is a quality each believer needs to cultivate before its **“time gone.”**

John 9:4 KJV |

*“⁴ I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: **the night cometh, when no man can work.**”*

4. ETERNAL INVESTMENTS REQUIRES TEMPORAL RESOURCES

Luke 16:9 KJV |

*“⁹And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, **they may receive you into everlasting habitations.**”*

- Eternal life is a gift from God. But our earnings require temporal resources.

John 4:36 KJV |

*“³⁶ **And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal:** that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”*