

FLIPP3D.

DEVOTIONAL

The Flipside of Stinginess | Matthew 6:19-24

By Chad Bailey, Student Pastor

“What’s the return on my investment?” From our relationships and time, to our money, we want to know that how we ‘spent’ our life was ‘worth it’. No one wants to invest energy or time without a positive return. When it comes to our money, it turns out there is a convenient formula. Just take your Gain of Investment minus your Cost of Investment divided by your Ultimate Gain of Investment over time. It’s this last element that is especially tricky, *time*. If the length of the investment is underestimated, one might consider an investment a failure before it has a chance to pay off or worse, a success too soon only to end up losing more than they had in the first place.

Naturally, most people spend their lives acquiring and storing up money and the stuff that money buys without any consideration of how eternity plays into the formula. We are naturally impatient and just plain stingy and this results in the very behavior Jesus attempts to flip on it’s head in Matthew 6:19-24. Sure, given the 78-year life expectancy, the return on our stingy and impatient investment isn’t too shabby, but it’s when you rightly consider that pesky element of *time* that you start seeing startling numbers!

Things are put in perspective when Jesus points out the finite reality of our ‘stuff’ showing us that the things that ruined first century *stuff* still destroy today. We still have moths, metal still corrodes and thieves still...thieve. But despite the fact that it fades, we continue to pursue things like the pride of a new car, the satisfaction of paying for college, the peace of a strong savings account, or the confidence of that new outfit. Without considering our eternal life in God’s perfect kingdom we run the risk of our lives, however good, not being worth it at all. Simply put, our stuff is temporary and doesn’t translate into eternity, yet we cling to it.

Paul’s warning in 1 Timothy 6 comes to mind: *“Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...”*

So before you go put every dime you own in Microsoft stock, watch the interest build and rest easy, check out Jesus’ fund management advice in Matthew 6:20, *“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”* Knowing and obeying God is our life’s ultimate investment and there is an eternal reward for those who allow Him to flip how we handle all of our stuff. Choose with me to obey Him and be open-handed with our stuff while laying up for ourselves eternal riches in heaven.

Chad was born and raised in Oklahoma City and graduated from Southwestern Christian University with a Bachelor’s in Biblical Leadership and a minor in Youth Ministry. He has served full-time in student ministry since 2003. Chad brings to PBC his heart and vision for leading leaders and leading students to become fully devoted followers of Christ, and his passion for doing ministry in a Connecting Church. He is a member of our leadership team serving as Student Pastor. Chad and his wife Ryan were married in 2003. They have two children, Graham (2005) and Cooper (2007).