

**Prayer & Self Denial 2017 - 'Treasures Handed Down'**

For www

**Julian Doorey - Sermon - Week 3 - Where is Your Treasure? - 2-7-17**

(Matthew 6:19-24, Ecclesiastes 5:10, 1 Timothy 6:10)

2 Jesus speaking to his disciples and the crowds in his sermon on the mount said...

Matthew 6:19-24: Treasures in Heaven

<sup>19</sup> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22, 23...</sup> <sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (NIV)

**Prayer**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final week of our NZ Baptist Mission 'Prayer and Self Denial' (PSD). This is our annual event to focus for a few weeks on global physical and spiritual needs. NZ Baptists have worked overseas since about 1885. Currently we work in India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Macau and East Asia. The purpose of PSD is to raise support, prayer and funds for overseas mission.

Our theme this year is 'Treasures Handed Down = Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho'. This speaks of the treasures God hands down to us, and, in turn, the treasures we hand down (*hand over*) for global mission. The 3 big ideas about treasure are: Week 1 - The Gospel is Treasure, Week 2 - People are Treasure and Week 3 - Where is your Treasure?

For the last 25 years, we've used a different funds container each year. This year, it's a 'kete', handmade in Aotearoa. It represents the taonga (treasure) of weaving handed down through generations, and is utilised to hold taonga or the things of value to us. > [Morning tea story](#) <

PSD has 2 parts: (i) 'Prayer' for global mission and world issues, and (ii) 'Self Denial' (money) to resource global mission workers and projects. Our collective response will be today.

**Money - why talk about this?**

Why risk ruining a good morning? It's a tough topic to preach on and all stay friends. It's one thing to invite people to follow Jesus, it's another to say 'bring your money'. Cavy Baptist doesn't focus on money, apart from the occasional appeal for overseas mission, Tearfund work and such like. We don't preach a 'prosperity doctrine' which says the more you give, the more God will bless you. However, money is an important topic for several reasons:

1. Bible speaks: Money, wealth, and poverty issues... are the largest Bible topic other than love and relationship with God and others. There are approx 2000 Bible verses on this. Most of the verses challenge us: (i) What effect does our money and wealth have on our relationship with God and others, and (ii) Are we using our resources to assist the poor and needy.
2. Cultural addiction: Our Western culture is addicted to money, wealth, prosperity, capital gain, and family legacies. In my childhood family, like many others, we didn't have much money. Dad was a railway labourer, and we had 19 acres of land. We had a few cows, sheep, pigs, steers, chooks, and grew stuff for sale (raspberries, pumpkins, plums, potatoes, vegetables) in an honesty box on the side of the road. In those days, you bought a house to live in, not to make capital gain. But now, everything seems about money. For example, within 24 hours of

winning the America's yaughting cup, there were articles about the economic value to NZ of hosting the next races (\$NZ 500 million?). Ed Sheeran's 3 Dunedin concerts will bring apparently \$NZ 50 million... but what about the music, culture, enjoyment, friendships, a family night out. A few months ago, a DCC staff member was accidentally quoted, that cruise ships being stuck in Dunedin for an extra day due to bad weather, would enable '*more money to be extracted from passengers*'. There was bit of a public outcry... it was quite funny.

- 4
3. Mission resourcing: Mission requires, people, prayer, pastoral care and money (profit, prosperity...) to operate. Some people think mission workers live by faith, but actually they need food, clothing, housing, transport, education, healthcare, entertainment and holidays... just like you and me. When Claire, I and the kids were overseas, we had personal support of approx \$NZ 60,000 per year. Why so much for living in Bangladesh, a cheap place? Funding was based on a 3 ½ year cycle, including a 6 month home assignment in NZ. Plus, NZ Baptists like most missions, operates a 'pooled' support system. The over-supported like us, helped fund the under-supported. What about 'projects'? It costs money to set up and operate community development projects and businesses, for example, the TCDC (Total Community Development Centres) project cost \$NZ 1 million over 5 years, 80% paid by NZ Govt Aid.

Money - is a very big deal in God's kingdom ~ Bible speaks, cultural addiction, mission resourcing.

### Moths, rust and thieves

- 5 Referring to the first part of our text for today...

[Matthew 6:19-20](#): <sup>19</sup> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (NIV)

Translations: (NIV): [moths, vermin](#). (Msg): [moths, rust](#). (TLV): [erosion, losing value](#).

6 Datsun story: In my early teens, I saw a really cool car add in a magazine. The car was on a beach, with a late teens boy and girl sitting on the bonnet, watching huge breaking waves. The mood was freedom, strength, wild, sophistication, friendship and discovery. The car had '105 horsepower, with silky smooth 4 on the floor, and independent rear suspension'. That was my dream car... a Datsun 180b. My parents accidently bought a second-hand one, which drove incredibly well. Later, I bought one with a vinyl top, which didn't drive quite so well. I'm a Datsun fan. What happened to those 180bs, and all the other cars from the 1970s? They rusted. Plus the WOF rust rules in the mid 1990s became ridiculous, putting 1000s of cars off the road. I haven't seen any 180bs around, although is a 120y in South Dunedin.

 [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Lg50wzFHjQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Lg50wzFHjQ) 2010 Minidulla Rally - Datsun 180B - 25s

7 Moths, rust, vermin, erosion, losing value / depreciation: Everything on earth is deteriorating, breaking down and decaying. Is there anything that isn't (diamonds)? Some examples:

- Metals – used in cars, rooves etc - rust, salt corrosion.
- Plastic – hoses, upholstery, garden netting, paintwork, photo albums – sunlight.
- Wood – decay, rot, borer. Hardwood vs Pinus Radiata (softwood) – treatment, MDF, storage.
- Human bodies – skin, muscles, hearing, vision, hair, diseases etc.
- Land / rocks – eroding due to weather / seasons – sun, rain, wind, cold (freezing), water action - waves, flooding.
- Crops / food – insects, vermin and wild animals eat crops and food. eg: locusts, rats, rabbits.
- Digital data – viruses, hard drives crash. External hard drives, memory sticks, Cloud storage.
- Bangladesh climate – hot and humid, petri dish - plastics, Tupperware (lifetime guarantee), leather (green snake in the wet season), paper, Oli Poka eating wood.

Storing stuff: If you go away for a long time, you have to decide what to take, get rid of and store. This raises questions about what you 'value' and 'treasure'. My concerns were about photo albums and records (black vinyl). Really important are my digital files, containing 2 decades of writing, stories, letters, reports, photos and videos. I'm pretty fussy about backing those up. Universal principle - everything is decaying - be careful about what we treasure, how and where we store it.

### **Treasures in heaven**

8

We're told to store up 'treasures in heaven', but these verses don't say what that is. The Bible as a whole gives plenty of clues. How about: living as a follower of Jesus? - for example: (i) Loving God, neighbour and enemy, (ii) Witness, outreach and mission, (iii) Helping the poor and sick, (iv) Creation care, (v) Building Christian community, (vi) Using our money and wealth for others, (vii) Using our gifts and talents for others... etc. This is my understanding, what about yours?

9

[Matthew 6:21](#): For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NIV)

A tough verse. People's 'hearts' are often seen to indicate how they're doing with God. We might ask 'how's your heart?', like, 'how are you doing with God?' Based on this verse, we should be asking 'Where's your treasure?' If only the verse had been around the other way, but it's not. Where is our treasure? That shows our true belief, values and commitments.

[Matthew 6:22-23](#): Miss these verses out as we've preached on these earlier in the year.

### **God or money?**

10

Finally, we get to the KO (knockout) punch.

[Matthew 6:24](#): No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (NIV)  
Translations: (NIV, TLB) '[serving two masters](#)'. (Msg) '[worshiping two gods: God and money](#)'.

Here, 'serving' or 'worshipping' money, is presented as direct competition with God. Throughout the Bible, 'money, wealth and prosperity' are not bad things, they're good things when used to benefit others, especially the poor and needy. But, the prophets in the OT, and both Jesus and Paul in the NT, were generally suspicious of wealth, particularly the effect it has on our relationship with God, and how we respond (or don't respond) to the poor and needy. In Luke's socially concerned gospel, Mammon / or money is seen as having almost a spiritual power, a hold on people, with great potential for good, and great potential for bad.

11

[Ecclesiastes 5:10](#): The one who *loves* money is never satisfied with money, nor the one who *loves* wealth with big profits. More smoke. (Msg)

[1 Timothy 6:10](#): For the *love* of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (NIV)

The key issue is not 'money', but the love, the attraction, the seduction, the scheming, the time... spent acquiring, preserving and increasing our money. Treat money with extreme care - use it for God's mission and helping others. New business ideas are emerging. Some people think the main purpose of business is to maximise financial returns for investors. New thinking says business has many purposes: providing livelihoods and decent jobs, serving customers and clients, building community, helping the needy, looking after creation etc. A triple-bottom-line approach considers social, economic and environmental outcomes. In the same way that NZ Baptist 'business as mission' helps the most needy in Asia, so our NZ businesses can do the same.

12

13

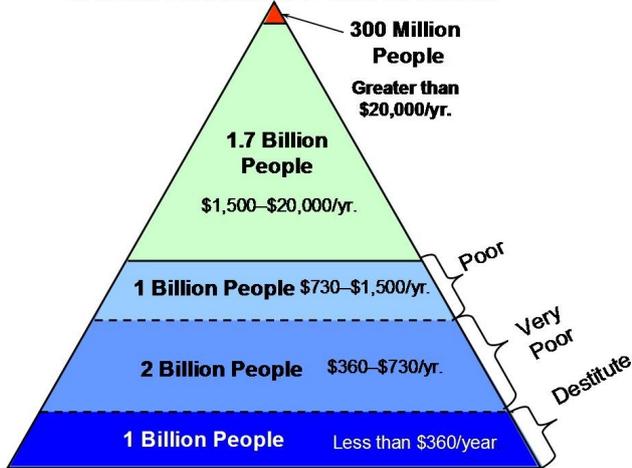
### But I'm not rich, what can I do?

There's a general belief that we're not rich. Let's look at the following websites...

#### (1) Google Search

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) > World income distribution statistics > images

#### World Income Distribution



\*Sources: VISA International, World Bank, C.K. Prahalad

Note: Always check for...

- Currency? This uses \$US
- Before or after tax? This is after tax.
- Income per person or household? This is person.
- Year? Don't know for this diagram.
- Cost of living adjustment between countries (PPP - purchasing power parity)? Don't know for this diagram.

14

#### (2) Giving What We Can

[www.givingwhatwecan.org](http://www.givingwhatwecan.org) > Go to page bottom

Centre for Effective Altruism: To create a culture of giving more, and more effectively.

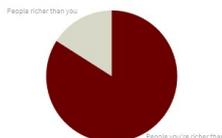
Location:	New Zealand.
Income annual:	Household after tax: Xxxxxx data for 2015-16 tax year. Taxable income = \$34960. Tax paid = \$4383. Net income after tax = \$30,577. Plus Family Tax Credit \$9167 = \$39744.
People in household:	2 adults, 2 children.



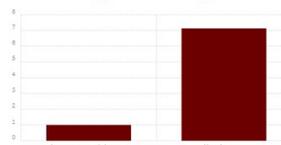
If you live in  
**New Zealand**  
 with a household income of  
**39744 NZD**  
 and your household has  
**2 adults and 2 children ...**

15

... you are in the **richest 16.4%** of the world's population

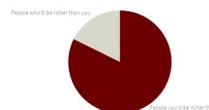


Your income is more than **7 times** the global average.

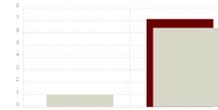


If you donated 10% of your income...

... you would still be in the **richest 17.7%** of the world's population ...



... you'd still have more than **6 times** the global average income...



16

And each year your donations could fund ...

... the distribution of **448** insecticide treated bednets ...

... or more than **2293** schistosomiasis treatments ...

... equivalent to saving **1** life  
Amazing, right?

## SO WILL YOU STEP UP?

Are you ready to take our 10% pledge?

Let's do this!  
Become a member

Got more info?  
Learn about making a real difference

Ready to pledge...  
Try giving

#	Household example	Annual household income after tax	Household adults	Household children	Income group in world population	Income compared with global average
1	Xxxxxx family 2015-16	\$39,744	2	2	Top 16%	> 7x
2	Well off family	\$80,000	2	2	Top 8%	> 12x
3	Retired couple - super	\$31,215	2	0	Top 14%	> 8x
4	Retired single - super	\$20,290	1	0	Top 13%	> 8x

### FAQ - Why 10% for the pledge?

A balance. It's a significant amount of income, recognising global problems need real action. It's within reach of most developed country people. Strong historical connection to 'tithing' in Judaism and Christianity - giving 10% of income to the church and charity. Islam 'zakat' is giving 2.5% of total wealth to charity. The 10% pledge is minimum. Some members give more eg: 20% or 30%.

### (3) Global Rich List - didn't use in sermon, to reduce time

[www.globalrichlist.com](http://www.globalrichlist.com)

Purpose: To challenge 'perceptions that westerners are comparatively poor'.



Compared to most people in the world, we are rich... maybe not 'filthy rich', but we are rich.

### Conclusion

18 What have we found out...

- Money - a big deal in God's kingdom ~ Bible speaks, cultural addiction, mission resourcing.
- Moths, rust & thieves - eat up or destroy almost everything on earth.
- Store up treasures in heaven - follow Jesus - use money to support mission and needy people.
- Where our treasure is, shows our true heart beliefs, values and commitments.
- We can only serve God or money, not both. Be careful. Use our money for others.
- We are rich... maybe not 'filthy rich', but we are rich, compared to others in this world.

### Invitation to respond

I invite you to make a collective response to this difficult topic of money: 'Where is our treasure? Are we prepared to support our NZ Baptist overseas mission workers and projects with our treasure, enabling them to 'walk across the globe', as we 'walk across the room'? I invite you to bring your PSD offering or completed Pledge Form up to our treasure box. There are pens on the tables. For those who pledge, please make your payment using your normal method, via envelope or internet banking by Sunday 16 July (2 weeks from now). When you make the payment, label it 'Self Denial' and include your 'Cavy giving number' to ensure a tax credit for 50%. As we respond, we'll look at a video set to Graham Kendrick's 'Beauty for Brokenness (God of the Poor)'. End

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kVHKuldZyw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kVHKuldZyw) Beauty for Brokenness (God of the Poor) - 5m 18s