



Sunday Teaching Guide

Five Directions, Week 4

August 27, 2023

Bible Texts

- 1 Timothy 6:10
- Matthew 6:19-21
- Matthew 22:17-22
- Genesis 1:26-27

Important Terms

- Spur: give an incentive or encouragement to someone.

Sermon Notes

- How we spend our money reveals what we value. Another way to think about it is that our bank transactions will show us what we value. If we follow our money, we will find where we put our time, energy, and passion.
- Jesus shows us that we have a choice: We can spend our resources on things that fade or invest in something of eternal significance. Being a part of a church community is an attempt to invest in something of eternal significance. The church is a gathering of people discovering the eternal reality of God's love, finding the perfect picture of God's love in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, learning to live in and through that love, and sharing that love with our world.
- Jesus says that we should give to Caesar the stuff that has his image on it, but we should give to God what has God's image on it. And we are bearers of the image of God.
- Pastor and author Rick Warren said, "The best use of your life is to invest it in something that will outlast it."
- The "contribute" direction is about providing an opportunity to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Remembering the Lord's Prayer, a prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, is a good way to reflect on the fact that we have a heavenly father who has invited us to be a part of the rescue, renewal, and reconciliation of this world: this reality we call the kingdom of God. We are called to to give our lives to that kingdom, using any power, influence, or resources for God's purpose, reflecting his glory through our lives.

Reflection Questions

- When you were growing up, did someone teach you about prioritizing how you spent your money?
- How often do you budget or look at your monthly or weekly expenses? Do you ever find yourself surprised at how much you have spent for certain things?
- How do you view money and wealth? Do you view wealth as good, evil, or neutral?
- In what ways do you see yourself as rich or poor?
- In what ways do you think that you have been given what you have? In what ways do you think you have worked hard for what you have? Is there a balance between the two at all?
- In our 21st century world, what do you think are things in life that belong to Caesar?
- What help do you need to better contribute to the church and the world?

Prayer for the Week

- God, through your son Jesus, you have taught and encouraged us about how to spend our time and resources. Help me be focused in how I view money and wealth and direct my efforts toward true wealth, which is found in following the way of Jesus and seeking the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Mark 12:41-44
- 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Hebrews 13:16