

# BASICS

REFLECTIONS  
ON  
CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS



# INTRODUCTION

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- ***A Short 5 Minute Review – Matt. 25:14-30***
  - The context of the parable is the wait for Christ's return.
  - The storyline for the parable involves three entrusted servants.

# INTRODUCTION

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- ***A Short 5 Minute Review – Matt. 25:14-30***
  - The parable teaches . . .
    - We do not own anything; we are stewards of everything.
    - We are entrusted with “talents” in proportion to our abilities.

# INTRODUCTION

- *A Short 5 Minute Review – Matt. 25:14-30*
  - The parable teaches . . .
    - We will be held accountable for what we do with our talents.
    - We will be rewarded on the basis of our faithfulness, not on the basis of our results.

# INTRODUCTION

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- *A Short 5 Minute Review – Matt. 25:14-30*
  - The parable teaches . . .
    - The rewards for faithfulness are very appealing.

# INTRODUCTION

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- *A Short 5 Minute Review – Matt. 25:14-30*
- *The Immediate Context*
- *An Important Parallel Account*

# Luke 12:33-34

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*Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. (34) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

# About Your Treasure

- Simple Definition –
  - Greek Word – *thesauros* – accumulated wealth in the form of money, jewels or other valuables.
  - *Treasures, or wealth, among the ancients consisted in clothes or changes of raiment, as well as gold, silver, gems, wine, lands, and oil. – Albert Barnes*

# About Your Treasure

- Therefore . . .
  - Treasures are NOT:
    - Resources which are used for daily needs.
    - Reserves which are prudently saved for times of leanness or unplanned need.

# About Your Treasure

- Therefore . . .
  - Our treasures (stated negatively) are anything that is excessively accumulated or hoarded for the purpose of immediate or future pleasure, attention, comfort or security.
  - *It meant an abundance of anything that was held to be conducive to the ornament or comfort of life. – Albert Barnes*

# About Your Treasure Chests

- Treasure Chest #1 – Earth
  - How do you store up treasure on earth?
  - Why should you NOT store up treasure on earth?

# About Your Treasure Chests

- Treasure Chest #2 – Heaven
  - How do you store up treasure in heaven?
  - Why should you store up treasure in heaven?

# About Your Treasure & Your Heart

- What is the relationship between your treasures and your heart?
  - Our treasures are like dipsticks – they expose our hearts.
  - Our treasures are like magnets – they draw our hearts.

# About Your Treasure & Your Heart

- What is the relationship between your treasures and your heart?

*We must store our wealth above, in order that our hearts may be drawn upwards. The two act and react upon one another; where our treasure is, there will our hearts be; and where hearts are, there is our treasure.*

*– Alfred Plummer*

# About Your Treasure & Your Heart

- What is your heart?
  - Heart – The locus of a person's thoughts (mind), understanding, volition, emotions and knowledge of right from wrong.
  - An Illustration: Your heart is the potbelly stove of your life.

# About Your Treasure & Your Heart

- What is your heart?
  - A Quick Theology of the Heart

*Matthew 22:37 - Love the Lord your God  
with all of your heart . . .*

# About Your Treasure & Your Heart

- What is your heart?
  - A Quick Theology of the Heart

*Luke 6:45 – The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.*

# About Your Treasure & Your Heart

- What is your heart?
  - A Quick Theology of the Heart

*Proverbs 4:23 – Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life.*

# Two Similar Passages

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*James 5:1-3 – Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. [2] Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. [3] Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!*

# Two Similar Passages

*James 5:4-6 – [4] Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. [5] You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. [6] You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.*

# Two Similar Passages

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*1 Timothy 6:17-19 – Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. [18] Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, [19] storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

# FINAL APPLICATIONS

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1. The applications of these principles are surprisingly objective.
2. The motivations behind these principles are surprisingly merciful and loving.

# FINAL APPLICATIONS

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*You are to remember with the passion burning within you that you are not the child of today. You are not of the earth, you are more than dust; you are the child of tomorrow, you are of the eternities, you are the offspring of Deity. The measurements of your lives cannot be circumscribed by the point where blue sky kisses green earth . . .*

# FINAL APPLICATIONS

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*All the fact of your life cannot be encompassed in the one small sphere upon which you live. You belong to the infinite. If you make your fortune on the earth – poor, sorry, silly soul – you have made a fortune, and stored it in a place where you cannot hold it. Make your fortune, but store it where it will greet you in the dawning of the new morning.*

*– G. Campbell Morgan*

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