



STUDY GUIDE

March 14, 2021

Message Series:

Jesus' Greatest Hits

Message Title:

Serving Two Masters

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Do you know someone who talks about the same thing over and over and over? Share details without using names. Are you one of those people who talks about the same thing over and over again? What is that topic?

Pray:

Dear Lord, Your teachings are the greatest investment and through them we desire to be changed from the inside out. We acknowledge that the thing we think about all the time is the thing that is very important to us. We are here to get Your help with an honest evaluation of what that thing is in our hearts and hope that we can be aligned with Your heart and will for our lives. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Get Started:

- If you caught the money burning during Sunday's message, how did the sight of all that money burning make you feel? What was your initial reaction? How did you process that experience?

"If you agree with my theory that the thing you talk about all the time is the thing that's very important to you, then you, like me, should be interested in why Jesus was so interested in this topic, because it was clearly very important to him. Not money itself, but what money could do to you...and to me. Truthfully, Jesus brought up money not because he cared about it, but because you and I do. Perhaps money wasn't Jesus' greatest hit...perhaps it's ours. And maybe that's why Jesus couldn't stay away from it. Jesus knew that money had great power - for good and for not-so-good. The right perspective on money could draw us closer to God, but an oversized, overvalued perspective could hurt us badly." - Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Proverbs 11:24-25.

- Would you say that you give of your first fruits or only the leftovers? How are you modeling a lifestyle of generosity for your children or others who look to you for guidance?

Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 15:23 min.)

Jesus spoke more about money than any other topic. That means there is a plethora of scriptures for you to dig into and hear directly from Jesus himself. I can't over emphasize how important this is, particularly if you think that money might be your master or if your evaluation concludes that you are storing up more treasures on earth than you are in heaven.

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

- What are two specific dangers Paul mentions that rich people should they guard against?

Read Matthew 6:19-21.

- How do we make the turn from storing up treasures on earth to storing up treasures in Heaven? What does that look like?

Reflect and Commit:

"What is your attitude towards real generosity and giving? So many people think that this conversation comes from churches and church leaders out of greed and desperation. And I suppose some of that is deserved. But if you could remove that distraction for a minute, I want you to think about YOU. If God laid it on your heart to give significant money away, would you do it? Make significant whatever it means to you - the point is that you feel it. If giving a few bucks away at Christmas makes you feel better, but has no real effect on what you still have left, think about what it would feel like to give away whatever would be a lot to you. Could you do it? If not, why not? I submit that many of us won't give because, well, to be honest, Money is our master... Giving is my litmus test as to how much control money has over me." -Pastor Brian Hughes

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-14.

- Describe a time when you felt fulfilled by either serving someone else or being generous? Do you have a plan to do good this week or in the near future?

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for meeting us right where we are and giving us grace when we fall short of Your will for our lives. Please give us a mature view of our finances and a generous spirit as we place our dependence and trust in You. Help us to be more eternity-minded, so that our hearts are steadfast on You here on earth, and all the while our treasures are being stored up in heaven. It's in our Savior Jesus' name we pray. Amen.