

Better: Giving is Better

(Acts 20:35; Matthew 6:19-25)

Introduction.

A) Christmas presents are fun for everybody. As a child, you remember (know) the joy of opening gifts on Christmas Day. The atmosphere is electric. Anticipation is out of this world. It's fun to receive gifts.

In contrast, as we get older, it becomes more fun to give Christmas gifts than receive them. It's more fun to see the joy of others than self.

At that point in life, we begin to understand that **“giving is better than receiving.”**

B) Contextualize this sermon in the series.

C) You have heard all your life that giving is better than receiving. You were taught to share as a child. You were asked to give to charity as an adult. You were asked to give cheerfully as a Christian. We know it is BETTER to give than receive, but how do we get to that point practically in our lives?

D) Contextualize Matthew 6:19-25.

I. Principle: Giving Is more about investing, not divesting (Matthew 6:19-21)

A) Two Treasuries

B) Two Investments

C) Two Returns (Eternal rewards are imperishable (safe), eternal (tangible assets for heaven), inexhaustible (Luke 12:33-34, “*never be used up*”)

II. Illustration: A poor widow and a rich fool

A) The Poor Widow (Mark 12:41-44)

B) The Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)

III. Application: Treasure and the heart

A) Your giving evidences your heart

- 1) What do you value most?
- 2) What would you most hate to lose?
- 3) What do your thoughts turn to most frequently when you are free to think of what you will?
- 4) What affords us the greatest pleasure

B) Your giving can change your heart

- 1) Want a heart for missions? Give to missions
- 2) Want a heart for his church? Give
- 3) Want a heart for God? Invest

Conclusion.

While we have talked about the principle of giving, we must not leave out the greatest gift every given – Jesus Christ.

