

YT Video-Treasure In Heaven

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 11 September 2021

Text [KJV unless otherwise indicated]

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Mat 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Mat 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

I. Treasure on Earth

a. Cannot last

b. Moth & rust: banks can fail, houses can be swept away, bank vaults can be broken into, safes in home can be broken into-

Luk 12:33 Sell that ye have and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Luk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Bags refer to depositories for money, gold and precious stones, title deeds, bank accounts. In Heaven, the depositories never grow old or corrupt.

c. Businesses can fail

d. Bankruptcies can occur

II. Provision for Soul

Luk 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luk 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, what shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luk 12:18 And he said, this will I do: I will pull down my barns and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luk 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast many goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luk 12:20 But God said unto him, thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then who's shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luk 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

- a. Material things cannot accompany the soul out of this world
- b. Many accumulate for a comfortable/luxurious retirement but do not get to enjoy it. Others benefit from the estate.
- c. Earthly treasures enrich the self but not the relationship with God [not rich towards God]
- d. How do we become rich towards God?

III. Treasure in Heaven

What are treasures in Heaven?

- a. Our inheritance
- b. Our heavenly rewards/prizes
- c. Our works
- d. The money we send to the Bank of Heaven [we shall see how shortly]

IV. Treasure & Heart

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Both Mat 6:21 & Luk 12:34 warn us that our heart will be where we keep our treasure.

V. Treasure & Eye: Light or Darkness

Mat 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Mat 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

In the midst of instructing us to put our treasure in Heaven, there is the warning that if we keep our eyes on worldly treasure, our body shall be in darkness. In order to have light, our eyes must be on our Heavenly treasure!

VI. Treasure & Worship: God vs Mammon

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mat 6:24 should scare us: money should never be our master because God must be worshipped exclusively. We need money for daily living and use: it should be our servant, not our master.

VII. The Rich Young Man: Need to be perfect

Mat 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

Mat 19:17 And he said unto him, why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Mat 19:18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, thou shalt do no murder, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness,
Mat 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Mat 19:20 The young man saith unto him, all these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Mat 19:21 Jesus said unto him, **if thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.**

Mat 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, **he went away sorrowful**: for he had great possessions.

Mat 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 19:24 And again I say unto you, **it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.**

- a. The rich young man did not obey all the commandments. Notice Yahshua left out the first 4 commandments which have to do about loving God and also left out the last about covetousness.
- b. Need to be perfect:

Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

G5046: teleios

tel'-i-os

From G5056; complete (in various applications of labor, growth, **mental and moral character**, etc.); neuter (as noun, with G3588) **completeness**: - of full age, man, perfect.

Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again **until Christ be formed in you,**

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors, and teachers.

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:**

VIII. **To Sell All & Give to the Poor**

- a. Rich young man counselled by Yahshua
- b. Us, as in

Luk 12:33 Sell that ye have and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

- c. Note that the giving is to the poor! Interestingly, contrary to the false teachers, the proceeds of the sale are to go to the poor, not Temple, churches or pastors.
- d. Fast and give the savings to the poor:

Isa 58:6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Isa 58:7 **Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?**

IX. The Rich Young Man: To Follow Yashua

- a. Mark's gospel adds: "take up the cross and follow Me"

Mar 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come **take up the cross, and follow me.**

Luk 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- b. Money, possessions & relationships that matter more than God represent a cross that many will not take up or be able to do so.
- c. We are called to be disciples, patterning our lives after our Saviour, and not to be mere believers.

X. Poor

- a. Lend to a brother in need

Deu 15:7 **If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:**

Deu 15:8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely **lend him**

- b. Provide for those who cannot repay

Luk 14:13 But **when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:**

Luk 14:14 And thou shalt be blessed; for **they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.**

- c. Give Secretly

Mat 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Mat 6:2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

Mat 6:4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

d. Love is giving to a brother in need

1Jn 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

XI. Blessings for those Who Give To The Poor

a. Will not know want:

Pro 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

b. Honors God:

Pro 14:31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

c. Blessed:

Pro 22:9 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

d. Lending to God:

Pro 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

e. Giving to Yashua:

Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Mat 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Mat 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Mat 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

Mat 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Mat 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

*Mat 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.***

f. Deliverance

*Psa 41:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. **Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.***

g. Light & health, righteousness & reward:

*Isa 58:8 Then shall thy **light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily:** and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.*

XII. **Covenantal Provision for the Poor**

a. Gleanings

*Lev 19:9 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, **thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.***
*Lev 19:10 And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; **thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God.***

b. Tithes

*Deu 26:12 When thou hast made an end of **tithing all the tithes** of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled;*

Deu 26:13 Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them:

These 2 verses refer to the tithe given to the Temple by the Priests & Levites who received the tithe from the people. The ambiguity of Deu 14:22-29 has led to the idea that there are 3 tithes: one regular, one for celebrating the Feasts and one every 3rd year to give to the Levites, strangers, fatherless & widows which works out to be 231/3% of one's income! Deu 26:12-13 shows clearly that only one tithe is payable by the people which is then tithed by the Priests to YAHWEH for Temple use, with the remainder given to the Priests & Levites because they have no inheritance of land among the Tribes of Israel. Every third year, the Temple portion of the tithes is distributed as welfare to the Levites, strangers, fatherless and widows.

c. How should we respond?

1. The church should give about 3.3% each year [equal to 10% of offerings in the 3rd year] to the poor
2. As members, in addition to what we give as offerings to the church, we are to give alms to the poor, the blind, the lame, the homeless.
3. The New Testament does not specify tithing [10% giving] but rather freewill offerings to the local church, which would provide for those who preach the gospel, the poor in the church and poorer churches elsewhere.
4. In addition, we should have gleanings to support the poor: roughly 1/1000 to 1/100 of our income. [I am trying to estimate how much grain the farmer would leave on the ground and the unharvested stalks at the corners of his field]

XIII. Poverty: An Abiding Problem

Deu 15:11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Mar 14:7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

a. Global poverty

The latest global poverty estimates show that 9.2% of the global population lives below the \$1.90 international poverty line in 2017. This translates into 689 million people still living in extreme poverty.5 Nov 2020—"Global poverty reduction is slowing; regional trends help understanding why"
-Marta Schochchristoph Lakner

b. US poverty

Poverty levels in the U.S. are at 7.7% through the end of 2021, down from 13.9% in 2018. This is only because of the relief programs to alleviate the pandemic. Such programs will expire soon, and poverty level will escalate again. Homelessness will markedly increase as the temporary eviction ban has expired.

c. Israel poverty

1,980,309 Israelis live below the poverty line, as of last year, according to The Jerusalem Post [22 Jan 2021]. This is 23% of Israeli citizens and 31.7% of Israeli children.

d. Singapore poverty

"Four-hundred thousand Singaporeans live on \$5 a day." A survey from the Housing Development Board showed that one-third of Singaporeans living in one or two room flats have no source of income. Singapore, one of the richest countries in the world, has 20 billionaires and 188,000 millionaires.

e. COVID-19, growing inequality & poverty

“The COVID-induced poor could rise to around 150 million people.” “Globally, the increase in poverty that occurred in 2020 due to COVID still lingers, and the COVID-induced poor in 2021 continue”—World Bank

f. War & poverty: Afghanistan, refugees

“The Congressional Research Service noted this year that 90% of Afghanistan’s population lived on less than \$2 a day” “Experts warn of hyperinflation and growing poverty, with money transfers from abroad suspended” ---The Guardian, 22 August 2021

XIV. Why Are There Poor People?

a. Robbed

Pro 22:22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

Pro 22:23 For the LORD will plead their cause and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

Mat 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore, ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Jas 5:4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

b. Oppressed

Zec 7:10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.

Note: The Indonesian maid Liyani was made to do work in other houses illegally and without additional pay. To cover up her employer falsely accused her of stealing, landing her a jail sentence. Thankfully a righteous lawyer gave free service to appeal on her behalf successfully. It cost her 5 years' lost wages and a fearful ordeal.

Mal 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

c. Disobedience to YAHWEH

Septuagint-Deu 15:1 Every seven years thou shalt make a release.

Deu 15:2 And this is the ordinance of the release: thou shalt remit every private debt which thy neighbour owes thee, and thou shalt not ask payment of it from thy brother; for it has been called a release to the Lord thy God.

Deu 15:3 Of a stranger thou shalt ask again whatsoever he has of thine, but to thy brother thou shalt remit his debt to thee.

*Deu 15:4 **For thus there shall not be a poor person in the midst of thee,** for the Lord thy God will surely bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God gives thee by inheritance, that thou shouldest inherit it.*

The Torah calls for Israelites to work the land six years and let it rest in the seventh. This is called the Shmita year [year of release] where no cultivation is permitted and all debts by Israelites are cancelled. In addition, every 50th year is Jubilee when no cultivation is permitted, debts are cancelled, and land reverts to original tribes [owners]. The Shmita provision ensures a more equitable distribution of income and wealth and freedom from debt, which is the biggest cause of poverty.

d. Laziness

*Pro 6:9 **How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard?** when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?*

Pro 6:10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

*Pro 6:11 **So shall thy poverty come** as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.*

e. Tragedies: loss of breadwinner, war

f. Pandemics: loss of jobs, lower wages, increased inequality of income and wealth

g. Interest charged on loans by the poor

XV. Food For The Poor

There are over 100 groups in Singapore that provide food for the poor, but they are not properly coordinated, resulting in nutritional needs that are not properly met. I was particularly touched by a report about a Malay couple leaving food and provisions outside their flat for the poor of all races and religions. We should be challenged to do our part in identifying needs and donating money to bona fide welfare organisations.

In addition to food, poor children need pocket money, books, and laptops. The elderly poor struggle to pay for medicines and bills.