

## God Time – Jesus Our Provider

Monday: Matthew 11:28-30

Tuesday: Matthew 6:31-34

Wednesday: Luke 6:27-36

Thursday: 6:38

Friday: Acts 20:35

## Keep It Active

1. Pay attention and seek stories of giving that will inspire and grow you this week. This is the season where people turn their minds to incredible acts of kindness. Share those stories with others around you.
2. How do you want to grow in generosity this year? Think about and set a stretch goal this week for this year in growing your generosity.

## Diving Deeper

Giving like Jesus.

Matthew 6:19-23

Jesus does not see things from a worldly perspective, but from a view from heaven. As believers in Christ, our focus should not be on the things the world offers. In Matthew 6:20, Jesus warns us of the dangers of what the world offers, and encourages us to “*store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*” Jesus is calling into question whether we understand the distinction between being a worldly citizen and a kingdom citizen. The kingdom of God extends beyond what we can see and record on our calendars and stretches into eternity. But we live in the world, and as a result, we must be careful that we do not get caught up into the value system of the world. One of the strongest fascinations that we daily face is worldly ambition, whether it relates to the neighborhood we live in, the work we do, the money we chase, or the power we seek. The spell

of materialism is hard to break away from. Rather than storing up our treasure on earth we are to store them in heaven. We cannot treasure what the world treasures and still look like a kingdom citizen. What do you treasure? Jesus is not talking about the treasures the world chases, but rather the affections of the heart. Let us make it clear, however, that Jesus is not saying we should not save and store up resources for future needs. Rather He is saying that whatever we value we must determine whether it is the one thing that drives us, that which we have determined we cannot live without. It is not the treasure itself but the improper value that we place on the treasures that causes them to be illegitimate for the kingdom citizen. It is that which so ties us to the world that leads us to a path bent on rebellion to God. Treasures in heaven point to those things that have a lasting value, that remain forever – the development of Christlike character, the increase of faith, hope and charity, abiding in Christ, growth in the knowledge of Christ, spreading the gospel, generosity in helping others. These are the things that matter and have eternal value. We must live with a different worldview than non-believers. We must live with eternity in view. As kingdom citizens, it is what we value that defines us and when we value our relationship to Christ and eternity in heaven above all earthly joys, then we will live with an eye fixed on eternity.

1. Where do you keep your most precious treasures?
2. Is it hidden or on display? Our real treasure can't be hidden...it is to be shared...His name is Jesus.
3. Do you understand what it means to be a kingdom citizen?
4. When you think of Jesus do you think of Him as your real treasure or just a guide that helps you along the way?