

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

LESSON 9: RED LETTER BUSINESS

The spiritual life is the life of Christ reproduced in the life of the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedient response to the Word of God.

– DR. HOWARD HENDRICKS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Timothy is a hard-working, driven business owner who is very open about his faith in the marketplace. Tim is always pushing for efficiency and profitability. To this end he is even a little uptight with his employees and clients as he always seems to have an agenda and is never satisfied. As an employee you can count on having more to do after a meeting with Tim than before. If there is a more efficient and profitable way to do something you can be assured Tim will find it out. But the one thing that everyone knows and even respects about Tim is that he tithes to the Church. Of everything that Tim makes he gives 10% without fail and without fault. Tim would even say that the thing that drives him as a businessman to make more money is the fact that he could give more money to the Church. This may be true, but Tim's employees and clients wished that Tim would ease up a bit.

- Q. What are your observations about Timothy?
- Q. What do you think are Tim's true motivators in life?
- Q. What idols do you think Tim deals with? What are the dangers in these?
- Q. Where does Tim's character fall short of the character traits Jesus refers to in the Beatitudes?
- Q. What are some better ways that Tim could enjoy freedom in Christ.

MATTHEW 6:19-24

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- Q. What are the treasures Jesus is referring to on earth?
- Q. What would these treasures be in heaven?
- Q. Why is it so easy to focus on earthly treasures vs. heavenly treasures?
- Q. What happens when we try to be generous and stingy at the same time?
- Q. How would our attitude of “treasure” and generosity be shaped by our view of God?
- Q. In what ways do we serve money? In what ways does money master us?
- Q. What are some indicators in your life that would expose your true master?
- Q. What are some ideas you have that have worked in your life to guard your heart from earthly “treasure”?