

BUSINESS FAITH GROUPS

Income & Impact

Matthew 6:19-24

I. SESSION OVERVIEW

- Matthew 6:19-24
- Discovery | Serving 2 Masters
- Business Application | Income & Impact

II. REVIEW (30m)

- Personal Catchup
- Review last month's outcomes
- Open in Prayer

III. DISCOVERY

- Read Matthew 6:19-24 (shared reading)

Set up/ sermon on the mount. He sharing words that are so different it grabs attention & hearts. The Lords Prayer precedes it.

What jumps out at you?

- Give each an opportunity to share what they discovered as you keep it a conversation integrating your insights and their discoveries.

IV. AREA CHAIR INSIGHTS (30M)

1. Treasure

A treasure is something that you value and try to hold onto. Most commonly, we think of treasure as being something that has a financial price associated with it, although not always. Jesus began this discussion with a comparison of two types of treasure, stored in two different locations.

Earthly treasure. Things on this earth that we value and hold tightly to. Money may be the most common treasure we are guilty of holding onto. And that seems to have been the case in Jesus' day as well. Money is not necessarily a bad thing. But it is temporary, and we have no assurance that it will always be there for us. It is subject to thieves, market fluctuations, pandemics, and any number of other hazards to wealth. Much effort needs to be spent in accumulating and guarding that treasure.

Treasure in Heaven. Jesus tells us instead to lay up treasure in heaven. This treasure is not subject to the hazards associated with worldly wealth. It is secure for all eternity. And it required no effort on our part to keep it secure.

But how does one go about storing treasure in heaven? There are no branch offices near us where we can make a deposit. But that is not really true. Anytime we give to

the needs of others, we are making a deposit in our heavenly treasure store. Any sacrifice I make here is rewarded in the life to come.

Jesus then tells us that where our treasure is, our heart will be also. Jesus is using the heart to represent the whole person. If my treasure is on earth, then that is where my focus will be. But if my treasure is above, then my focus will be on the Lord and his things.

Q- What do you treasure?

Reverse Heart-Engineer/

This works in reverse as well. I can tell where my treasure is stored by looking at what I place value on. If I am looking to accumulate bigger and better things here, it indicates that my heart is also here. But if I am investing my time and resources in the Lord's work, it would indicate my heart is set on things above.

Old saying "Use things and treasure people; don't treasure things and use people."

2. Light

I believe Jesus is using the eyes here in a similar fashion to one's heart in the preceding passage. I use my eyes to look out into the world around me. If I have a healthy relationship with Christ, then I am going to see the light that he brings into the world. And that would include seeing material wealth as relatively unimportant compared with spiritual wealth.

But if my eyes are bad, if my walk with Christ is bad, or if I am an unbeliever, then I will see the world in an entirely different manner. Rather than seeing by the light of Christ, I will be wandering about in spiritual darkness. And the accumulation of worldly wealth, or other worldly pursuits, will consume me.

Jesus paints this as a binary state. We are in one state or the other. Our eyes are good, or they are not. Our treasure is on earth, or it is in heaven. We serve God, or we serve material things. There is no gray—one or the other.

Q- Do you see the idols in your heart?

3. Serving Two Masters

Jesus finished this discussion of our material possessions by using an example they would have been very familiar with. Slavery was an integrated part of the Greek and Roman culture of the day. And everyone knew what it was like for a slave to serve his master. Obedience was not an option. You did what your master told you to do, or faced the consequences. And getting fired was not one of them.

Jesus identifies two possible masters that people might serve: God, and materialism. And those two masters have dramatically different goals for your life. While we might try to serve both masters at the same time, or at different times during the week, neither master will be pleased with us.

Jesus' challenge to us is to make God our master, keeping our eyes filled with his light, and storing up treasure with him. We can use material possessions in his service. But we need to be careful not to allow them to control us or tempt us to value them.

The servant can only prioritize one or the other. They might be "loyal," in a sense, to both. But separate masters will command the servant in different, competing directions. As a result, the servant will naturally grow to hate or despise one of the two, while growing to love and be devoted to the other.

When we render service to two masters, the tendency is that we may develop more affinity for one than the other. If we share our service to God Almighty and things of this world, we will miss fellowship with God. And because of serving two masters at the same time, many are seduced and have become weak spiritually.

We can make money our master without even realizing it. The Pharisees were among the most religious people of Jesus' day. But Luke tells us that they loved money. They had convinced themselves that they were serving God. But in reality, money had become their master. They had become more concerned with status and prosperity than they had the things of God. Their piety and reverence for God were only skin deep. Their heart did not belong to God.

Jesus' closing statement is one we need to pay careful attention to. "What people value highly is detestable in God's sight." This world's value system is not God's. The world looks to satisfy physical appetites, outward appearances, and the gaining of wisdom (Gen. 3:6). God wants us to live a life of love (Matt. 22:37-40), committed to him.

Don't be like the Pharisees, who deceived themselves into believing that they could serve God while also valuing the things of this world. You cannot serve two masters. Choose to serve God rather than the world.

Jesus is specifically referencing the love of wealth in this verse. The Greek translation *mamonas*, is wealth, personified as an object of worship.

Q- Am I worshipping anything besides God?

Q-Are you trying to serve two masters? What are you worshiping? Where do your priorities lie?

V. WRAP

Would you still be generous if you did not have the money or wealth you do right now?

Is your heart in security of your wealth or the means of your wealth?

How do we intentionally make your company a platform for impact through your culture?

BUSINESS APPLICATION

I. SESSION OVERVIEW

- Business Application | Income & Impact
- Tool
- Outcome/ Grows one's influence when trust is established

II. CONTEXT

Q-Have you had to report to 2 bosses at the same time?

The idea that you cannot serve two masters is another way of saying that we cannot follow two different leaders. Imagine a servant who has two different masters, or a follower with two different leaders. At times the servant may be able to meet the requests of both masters. But inevitably the desires of one master will conflict with those of the other. What, then, is the servant to do? To which master is the servant most loyal? Which master's request takes priority? Practically speaking, you cannot serve two masters. So what does that mean for our relationship with God?

We can't equally value both at same time so which are you prioritizing as owner of your heart?

"People measure what they treasure"

III. TOOL/

I am interested in developing marketplace leaders who live at the intersection of revenue and relationship. The challenge is that no one is perfectly balanced. But if you are like me, you probably tend toward one or the other. Some people are more concerned about money than they are about God's relationship, while other people are more concerned about impact than they are about income. The reality is that when you go in either direction without thinking about the other one, you end up in a spot that makes it difficult to really achieve both goals.

When we chase only income, relationships tend to be used or a means to the end. Singular focus in our strength. Money does give us options. Possibilities. Money is good. Our life can quickly become out of balance as we are all work.

When we chase impact, we value making a difference. Our heart is focused on "using me Lord" and making this world a better place. We tend to weigh relationships and this value is the end not the means.

But if you only care about impact, you're not going to have the resources necessary to actually do the things that you care about.

- Being vs doing
- work as worship
- Seeing your business as a ministry platform

In the process of prioritizing impact, income will come as a byproduct
Learn to shift the way you relate and even the way you view your business to increase value, build trust, and gain profits.

When you are someone who's wise, when you're someone who is loving, when you have a lot of energy, when you're curious, adding value to others, putting others first, those are the kinds of things that actually give you the ability to generate income but they're also the kinds of things that allow you to generate impact.

I think there is a healthy balance and your objective is to determine what that balance between revenue and relationship is right for you.

Q- Do you worry about your income if you chase impact? How do you balance the “2 Masters”?

Q- Share your answers in 1:1 or with the larger group.

IV. WRAP

Revenue is good. Relationships are good. We are all on a faith walk.

- Review the attached Diagram.
- Mark where you are on the spectrum today.
- Mark where you hope to be on the spectrum one year from today.
- How can we pray for you to reach your goal?

Action Steps |

- What do you need from the group to be intentional and put these tips into practice?
- This month focus on understanding your balance.

GOALS |

- Ask each for their goals from this meeting to the next.
- Commit to prayer & supporting each other.

Name	Business	Personal	Faith
First Name		Strength training	Integration
First Name	LT/Culture	Running (alarms)	Listening to Him
Jon	Culture	Intentionality	Consistency
Kevin	Culture	Intentionality	Consistency
Brad	Culture	Leading the Family	Intentionality
First Name	Culture	Strength thru surgery; leverage time	Trusting Him

INCOME

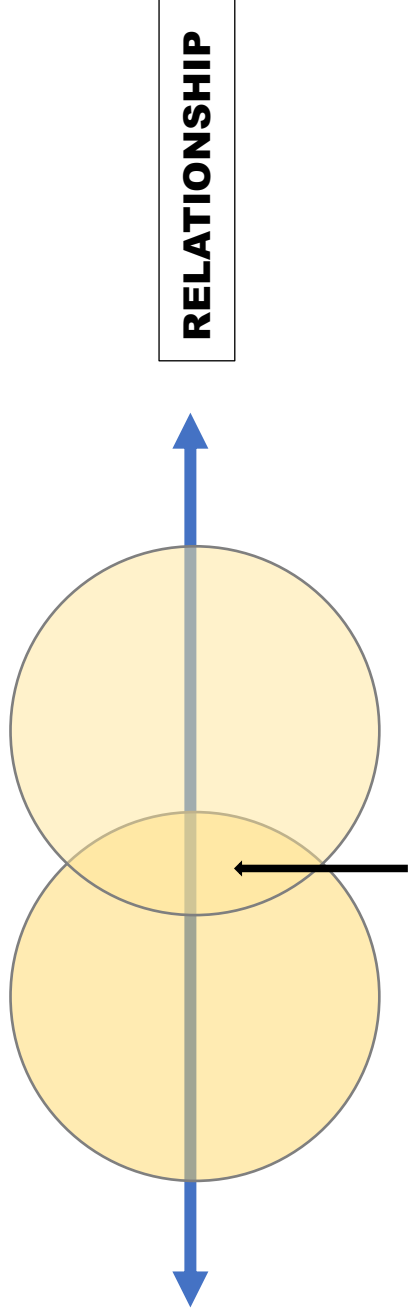
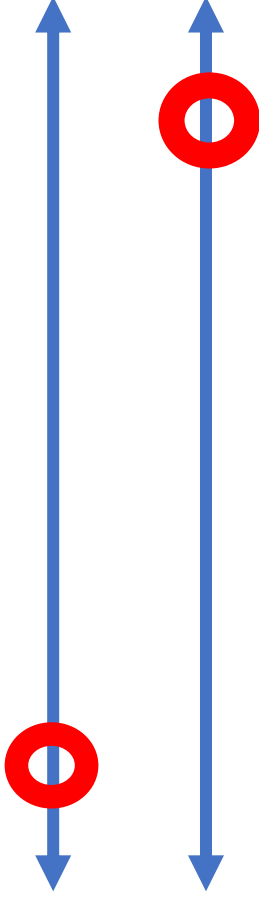
REVENUE

REVENUE

IMPACT

RELATIONSHIP

RELATIONSHIP



REVENUE

RELATIONSHIP

TOGETHER
BALANCED