

SERIES: CHURCH 101
SERMON #4

GETTING STARTED

What are the greatest barriers to giving?

DIGGING IN

Read Matthew 6:19-21. What is the problem with treasuring stuff on earth? How would you explain this to a ten year old? How would you explain it to a fifty year old?

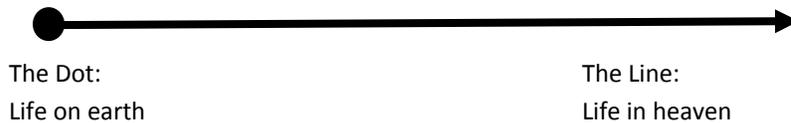
What is the benefit of treasuring stuff in heaven?

Verse 21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." These means that our heart is naturally drawn to wherever our stuff is. If this is true, how might our possessions maintain a sort of power over us?

Read Matthew 6:24. According to this verse, how do we break the power of materialism in our lives?

[The following illustration is taken from Randy Alcorn's book called *The Treasure Principle*].

Our lives have two phases: one a dot, the other a line extending out from that dot. Our present life on earth is the dot. It begins. It ends. It's brief. But from the dot extends a line that goes on forever. That line is eternity, which Christians will spend in heaven. Right now we're living *in* the dot. But what are we living *for*? The person with perspective lives for the line. So, live for the line, not for the dot.



Looking at the illustration of the dot and the line, what are five observations or implications you might make?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

LIVING IT OUT

As a church, we want to take a journey toward generosity over the next year. There is no bad starting place on a journey – you just have to start moving the right direction. Which of the following best describes where you are on this journey?

- Just starting out on this journey
- Trying to stay on course
- Lost with no path to recovery in sight
- Still travelling down the road one day at a time

We want to encourage one another take next steps toward becoming generous people. What is one thing you can do in the month of February to take a step on the path towards generosity?

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at smallgroups@chathamchurch.org or 545-9589.