

Local Church Budget



“Jesus said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’” Matthew 19:21 (NIV)

A rich young ruler came to Jesus, asking what he needed to do to gain eternal life. Jesus played on the young man’s understanding. He knew the young man thought it was all about keeping the law. So Jesus suggested he do that. When the young man was unimpressed because he’d kept

the law all his life, Jesus showed him the full expression of the law— LOVE! Jesus told him to sell all his possessions and give to the poor. In that way, he’d be investing his heart in Heaven.

This teaching of Jesus reminds us of the verse where He also said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”. (Matthew 6:21) The truth of the story is that Jesus doesn’t need our money. He is the Creator of the universe. He is the Owner of everything. The reason He wants us to give is so that He can have our hearts, because what we treasure is where our hearts will reside.

We come to church every Sabbath and give offerings, thinking that we have done a good thing for God. And we have. God uses our gifts to further the mission of the church. But does it occur to us that what Jesus really wants is our hearts?

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Appeal

What can each of us do, in our sphere of influence and in our neighborhood, to show that we care about the natural world and one another?

Prayer

Dear God, You are the Owner of all. Each time we give may we recommit our hearts to You once again. Amen.