

Rewards / Motivation

Mat 7:24 **Therefore** whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock.

Mat 7:25 And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house. And it did not fall, for it was founded on a rock.

Mat 7:26 And everyone who hears these sayings of Mine and does not do them shall be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Mat 7:27 And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house. And it fell, and great was its fall.

We all line up our calendar and efforts in certain directions with certain rules and objectives because we are motivated in a given direction. Whether pain avoidance or gain. This appears to be God's plan and thinking. We are made in His image and He is one who is motivated for gain. Clearly for His glory. His plan and actions or not mindless transactions/truths, they are all shaped to gain Him glory. I think God has planted the drive for gain and pain avoidance in us to encourage the correct life and time investments. Satan is one who motivates us in the opposite direction.

Even Jesus looked to the reward:

John 17:4 I have glorified You upon the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

John 17:5 And now Father, glorify Me with Yourself with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Moses looked forward to the rewards

Heb 11:25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time,

Heb 11:26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

This Jesus Wisdom to us

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves **treasures** upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Question : As you look at and plan 2020 what are you doing to store up treasures in Heaven? How are you sure it is gold, silver, precious stone and not Wood, Hay, Stubble?

Question: Is this a command or a suggestion or wisdom?

Question: What will be Gold, Silver, Precocious Stone in Heaven?

Areas to work on or serve for storing up treasures, i.e. gold, silver, precisions stones

1. Spouse
2. Children
3. Parents
4. Siblings
5. People at work
6. associates
7. Neighbors/Community
8. Disadvantaged

Have a plan and work that plan

Here are some comments on the focus of their life by men on the questions above.

Layman businessman in Atlanta.

“As believers, God has expectations of us and He wants us to be motivated in the right direction and He knows we move in the direction of what we believe to be gain. God offers us rewards for obedience; the right action with the right motive. Our right actions with right motives are gold, silver

and precious stones; all else is wood, hay, straw. The reward is forever and so is the loss.”

Layman commercial builder in California

“It is a passage dealing with rewards as opposed to salvation and as such it puts the issue of “faithfulness to opportunities given” at the forefront. My only chance at being able to determine what opportunities God wants me to make a priority and be faithful to is to stay in His Word and to seek Him and His leading in my life. Because we walk by faith in this. I cannot be certain that I am investing my life in gold, silver and precious stone or wood, hay and stubble, which means it is another area where I need to just trust Him.”

Retired layman businessman in Florida

“Man attaches a high value on gold, silver and precious stones and not so much on wood, hay and straw.

Therefore, God uses gold, silver and precious to communicate to man to attach a high value on giving their lives to those things that will stand the test of time, eternity; the lives of people and God's Word.”

Corporate Executive businessman in Atlanta

My work (that is, what I do; how I invest my life) has eternal consequences. Gold, silver and precious stones represents work that will yield eternal rewards. In short, it is focused on people and their eternal best interest, specifically evangelism and edification (Matt 28:19-20). Wood, hay and stubble represents work that has no eternal value, specifically focused on the temporal (that is, treasures on earth and the wisdom of the world).
