

## God Time Day 1: Pour, Don't Store



This week we will look at being Invested in God's Work. Most of the time when we talk about "investments," we mean ways of increasing wealth – to store up worldly treasures. But when we become part of God's family, He turns things upside down. Rather than "storing up" earthly treasures, He invites us to discover the heavenly wealth that comes through giving by "pouring out" our time, talent, and yes, treasure.



Read Matthew 6:19-21

*<sup>19</sup> Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Before we get to the idea of how we might "pour out" to experience heavenly treasures, we need to first examine the heart that causes us to invest in a variety of matters. Our choices reveal what we care about:

- Do we devote more to physical or spiritual health?  
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- When choosing between a favorite hobby or a "church" activity, which wins out?  
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- How does the giving of tithes and offerings measure up to the money we spend on activities such as sporting events, eating out, or vacations?  
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Spend time right now talking with God about the areas of your life where you have been investing the most time, talent, and treasure. Listen for what He has to say about activities with a potentially better eternal rate of return.



God wants you to experience the blessing of "pouring, not storing."

## God Time Day 2: Avoid the Scarcity Mindset



A key distinction between people with a humanistic worldview and those with a godly worldview is the way they approach resources. Those with a godly worldview trust that God will always provide enough for His people to do what He asks. Those who have a humanistic worldview tend to be dominated by a fear that there will never be enough for everyone. Then life becomes a struggle or competition with others to make sure they don't take what's "mine."

Those with this second view live with a scarcity mindset. They focus on "storing up" or hoarding stuff to make sure there is always enough for me and mine.



Jesus told a story about a man who lived this way and was destined to die without ever enjoying the bounty God had provided him. To summarize the story, He said, *"That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."* (Luke 12:21)

## God Time Day 3 - Embrace the Abundance Mindset



The opposite of the fear-based scarcity mindset is a faith-based abundance mindset – confidence that God will provide.



Read Psalm 37:25-26

*<sup>25</sup> I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous abandoned or his children begging for bread. <sup>26</sup> He is always generous, always lending, and his children are a blessing.*

In Mark 14 there is a story that illustrates the difference between these mindsets. A woman brought expensive perfume and lavished it on Jesus— creating a spectacle. She poured out the perfume generously to prepare Jesus for His burial. In contrast, one of the disciples (Judas) criticized her because she "wasted" resources. He masked his greed by saying it should have been "given to the poor."



On a scale of 1-5, circle how you would rate your mindset when it comes to investing your time, talent, and treasure.

Scarcity    1    2    3    4    5    Abundance

## God Time Day 4: God Multiplies What You Give



The miraculous feeding of the 5000 appears in all four Gospel accounts. It made a big impact on the apostles' thinking and was considered an important story for what it said about who Jesus is.



Read Luke 9:12-13,16-17

<sup>12</sup>Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here." <sup>1</sup> He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish."

<sup>16</sup>Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. <sup>17</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Underline the word "twelve" in the first and last verses.



Circle how much food they started with.

What they had to begin with was not enough even to feed Jesus and the disciples. No doubt they were tired after the long day and hoping to get at least a bite. Yet Jesus challenges them to rely on God as Creator – to make something from nothing. Then to drive the point home, after the crowd had eaten their fill, each of the Twelve had a whole basketful of leftovers.

Is there some part of your life where you feel there is not enough? Has God invited you to share what little you have?

Remember, He multiplies what we give, not what we store. It was only AFTER the disciples gave Jesus the loaves and fish that it became more than enough.



Where is Jesus challenging you to put your faith into action and trust Him as Creator – always able to make more?

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## God Time Day 5 - How are You Investing?



This week we have explored the different mindsets which drive how we invest our time, talent, and treasure. A scarcity mindset keeps us in fear of losing what we have. An abundance mindset knows that God can always provide what is needed. God's people are called to be part of His work in redeeming a lost world, but often we get stuck in attempting to do good on our own, fearful that if we give what we have, we won't have enough.

The CBC family has selected several ways to invest in God's redeeming work – to give from what God has given us:

- **Demonstrate** – We can show God's love to people in many ways, but only when we are willing to share what God has given us.
- **Declare** – We can share the good news with people, but our witness is undermined if our lives don't reflect God's generous grace.
- **Disciple** – We can share our lives with others, walking alongside them to help each other pursue Jesus. How much are we willing to go out of our way to build these relationships with others?



The *CBCFamily.net/Go2* initiative highlights four different ways each month to demonstrate, declare, and disciple:

<b>1. Serve</b> Give of your time each month (e.g., First Saturday Serve) to serve others with no expectations.	<b>2. Fast &amp; Pray</b> Give up one meal to spend extra time in prayer for someone you know who is living without Jesus.
<b>4. Celebrate</b> Give God the glory for what He is doing as we invest with what He has given. Go2!	<b>3. Invite</b> Share God's invitation with others; invite them for a meal, coffee, an outing, or even church.