

to Him who is able  
to do immeasurably



more than

## A Message from Monte

Thanks for joining us in studying the Bible and praying about the More Than initiative!

This prayer and devotional guide is designed to be used this week, as we continue to seek God's will in our hearts and in our homes. This week, we will center our thoughts on **having a treasure mentality**.

### Day 1 - Matthew 13:44

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." Jesus tells us in this parable a story about a man who discovered a treasure, and obtained this treasure by selling everything he owned. And yet, his heart was filled with joy! We might feel sorry for him, as we think of all he lost, but he would tell us to rejoice with him, because of all he gained. Perhaps the three most important words in the parable are "in his joy". Are we experiencing the joy of anticipating the Kingdom of God? It has been said that we experience earthly joy as we look forward to heavenly joy. Let's consider this week the ways we can contribute to the joy awaiting us in our heavenly home.

*Pray that God will help us to make decisions that will lead to heavenly joy as we spend eternity with Him.*

### Day 2 - Matthew 19:21

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. In contrast to the joy we read about in Matthew 13, we see the sadness of the wealthy young man. He's fallen into the trap of believing in the ability of earthly treasures to produce joy and contentment. There are real dangers that can arise when we forget that earthly treasures do not and cannot last! In Luke 16:13, Jesus tells us that "no one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." And in Luke 8, we read in the parable of the seed, that the seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures.

*Pray that we will not place our trust in earthly treasures, remembering that they cannot produce any real joy, security, or freedom in our lives.*

### **Day 3 - Matthew 6:19-20**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” It’s worth noticing that Jesus tells us to “store up treasures for ourselves”. But He advises us to avoid storing up earthly treasures, which do not last. Instead He tells us to focus on accumulating treasures in heaven, because they do last and cannot decay or be destroyed.

*Pray that we will be discerning as we make decisions about where to invest our time, our talents, our hearts, and our finances. Ask God to grow our confidence that what He wants for us is always for our good.*

### **Day 4 - 1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Paul advises Timothy to counsel “those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” We often hear, even in this secular world, that “we can’t take it with us.” But scripture tells us that, in effect, we can “send it on ahead!” Will there be someone in heaven that you look forward to thanking, because of investments they made in you in this earthly life? Will there be someone who thanks you for your prayers, or for sharing your time, talents, or money?

*Pray that God will help us realize the potential for good that our giving can have.*

### **Day 5 - Philippians 4:17-19**

Paul is writing from prison in Rome, thanking the Philippian church for the gifts they sent to him. He tells them that he didn’t desire their gifts, but he desired that the gifts should be “credited to their accounts”. He expressed that their gifts were “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.” Colossians 3:1-2 advises us to set our hearts and our minds on things above, rather on earthly things. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus reminds us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be. Do we really believe that God wants us to store up treasures in heaven? And do we believe that giving our time, our prayers, our hearts, and our money accomplishes this?

*Pray that God will direct us and lead us to the kind of generous giving that will be a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice.*