

Earthly Rewards - Lesson

Lesson summary: Be careful not to allow your motivation for serving God to be earthly rewards. Even if you start with good motives, this can sneak in.

MATTHEW 6:21 (NIV)

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MARK 10:29-30 (NIV)

²⁹ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.”

We see that God does give earthly rewards for serving Him.

What are some earthly rewards God gives?

Marriage

Job

Restored relationships

Health

Why shouldn't we allow these to become our motives for serving God?

If I serve God and stay clean, I will get a good wife (husband).

If I serve God and stay clean, I will get a good job.

If I serve God and stay clean, I will get _____

1. We can't serve God with the motive of getting something from Him.
2. We quickly become disappointed with God when our motives are wrong for serving Him.
3. Our drive to serve God becomes based on our circumstances
4. We open ourselves up to lies from the enemy, like:
 - a) God isn't going to do this, you will be miserable.
 - b) God isn't pulling His fair share.
 - c) God expects too much without giving anything back.
5. Our relationship with God is only serving Him for things He gives us, not love.
6. The devil knows if he can get you to focus on circumstances and things of this world, your heart will be tied up with this world, and you will be useless to God.
 - a) When times get tough, you will be the rocky soil and wither and die.

Our greatest motive for staying clean should be kept first in our heart, and that is a relationship of peace with God—the joy of knowing Him in a more intimate way. That is the greatest thing any of us could ever aspire to, and if you disagree, it is just because you don't understand how incredible it is to be intimate with God.

Keep your motives on eternity. Those things don't change.