

February 1/2, 2025

"God Rich"

Pastor Jeff Manion



Beyond the  
Weekend

## SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

### 2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

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## Day 1 [Mark 12:28-34](#) | God's Glory

**"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."** Mark 12:30-31

A religious leader approaches Jesus and asks, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" The two commandments Jesus cites take him back to [Deuteronomy 6](#), words that were recited by faithful Jews daily. These commands can be condensed to an easy-to-remember phrase, "Love God. Love others." These commands are to guide every aspect of their lives, including their finances. It's the same point Jesus makes in [Luke 12:20-21](#), the parable of the rich man who decides to build more barns to store his grain. The man's focus is solely on how he can use surplus grain to his benefit. He gives no thought to how he could help someone else. Jesus clearly tells us that we show our love for him by loving those around us.

The big question is, how do we grow and protect our wealth (no matter how large or small) for the glory of God and the benefit of others? We want to know how much is too much, how much we should give and to whom we should give it. These are challenging questions because Jesus doesn't tell us exactly what to do, only what matters more than anything else. As we love God and love others, Jesus tells us where our focus should and shouldn't be.

**TODAY:** In your journal, list three things you are grateful for today. Then, pray a prayer of openness, asking God to shift your heart toward seeing your finances as a tool to give him glory and benefit others.

## Day 2 [Luke 8:1-3](#) | Partners in the Gospel

**The Twelve were with [Jesus], and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.** Luke 8:1-3

The women with Jesus aren't just any women; they're women whose lives were dramatically changed by him. They respond to what Jesus did for them by following him and financially supporting Jesus and the disciples. This isn't the only time we see these women with Jesus. We see them at the cross ([Matthew 27:55-56](#)) and as the first people at the empty tomb ([Luke 24:1-3](#)). They want others to hear what they've heard, to experience what they've experienced and to know the One they were getting to know.

As followers of Jesus, we should feel motivated for others to hear what we've heard, experience what we've experienced and know Jesus as we know him. As we support the work of the gospel through the local church, we

understand we're not making the first move. God always makes the first move toward us as he loves us and saves us. It's easy to say "later" to supporting gospel work. We think we can start giving after we get a good job, get married, get the business off the ground or get started on retirement. But "later" is lethal, and we may never get started. The key is to start somewhere and start now.

**TODAY:** Have a conversation with a family member or friend about your giving habits. Prayerfully consider how you can start somewhere and start now. Consider supporting the work of the gospel through the local church. You can give to Ada Bible Church [here](#).

## Day 3 [Matthew 6:19-21](#) | Heart Work

**But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** Matthew 6:20-21

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus ties the location of someone's heart to how they spend their wealth. He knows that the accumulation of wealth for its own sake is deceptive because one can find an inaccurate assessment of one's spirituality in wealth. If they spend their wealth on themselves, they are likely self-centered or indifferent to the needs of those around them. If someone is generous with their money, they are likely to care about those around them. Jesus teaches that a person's heart tends to follow their money.

This connection between one's heart and finances might surprise us if we just tend to give when we feel like it. We may think giving follows feelings, but Jesus says our feelings will follow our giving. This means giving is an opportunity for us to grow in spiritual maturity. This may be a new idea if we typically confine spiritual growth to only things like Bible reading, prayer and Bible memorization. These practices will indeed help us grow to be like Jesus, but Jesus says giving will also help us develop a heart like his. This is especially true when we don't necessarily feel like giving.

**TODAY:** Consider how you and your family can participate in Ada Bible Church's Giving Tables. Participating in Giving Tables is an opportunity to support families in western Michigan through our partnerships with local mission organizations. You can find their shopping lists and more information [here](#).

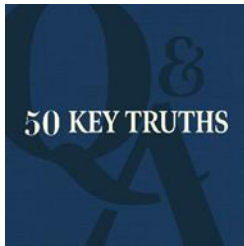
## Day 4 [Matthew 6:19-34](#) | True Wealth

**"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."** Matthew 6:24

During the last four weeks, we've considered what it means to allow the Holy Spirit to change our hearts about wealth. We've seen what it means to shift from a dark heart to a heart that is shaped by the cross. A dark heart is marked by pride, covetousness, anxiety and indifference. A heart transformed by the cross is marked by gratitude, contentment, trust and generosity. As we've seen, these characteristics are opposites of each other. A cross-shaped heart changes pride to gratitude, covetousness to contentment, anxiety to trust and indifference to generosity. No matter where we are on the journey from a dark heart to a transformed heart, Jesus meets us there and invites us to become more like him.

During this time, Pastor Jeff encouraged us to pursue specific habits. The Holy Spirit can use these habits to transform our hearts. These habits include a daily gratitude journal listing three things a day, mealtime prayer and regular generous giving. As these habits are done faithfully over an extended period of years, God moves our hearts from darkness to those shaped by the work of Jesus on the cross. These are habits worth beginning and continuing.

**TODAY:** Thank God for this series and how your heart has been challenged to take important next steps. Consider rewatching a sermon that spoke to you, or catch up on any messages you missed. Find all of the **TRUE WEALTH** messages at <https://www.adabible.org/series/true-wealth/>.



## Day 5 [Isaiah 55:8-9](#) | Question 5: God's Key Attributes

**Question:** What are some key attributes of God?

**Answer:** God is eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, present everywhere and perfectly loving and just.

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."** Isaiah 55:8-9

In this profound self-revelation, God declares his transcendent nature, highlighting the vast difference between his attributes and human capabilities. The metaphor of heaven's height above earth illustrates how far God's wisdom and power extend beyond human understanding. This passage shows the *otherness* of God. He is uncreated, eternal, independent and infinite—while everything else is created, time-bound and finite. Yet this same God, who is beyond full comprehension, chooses to make himself known. His attributes of omniscience (all-knowing), omnipotence (all-powerful) and omnipresence (present everywhere) are perfectly balanced with his justice and love, demonstrating that God's supreme power is always exercised in harmony with his perfect character.

Understanding God's attributes transforms how we view our circumstances and challenges. When we grasp that the God whose thoughts and ways are infinitely higher than ours is also perfectly loving and just, it changes how we approach both worship and daily struggles. His omnipresence means we're never alone. His omniscience means no detail of our lives escapes his notice. His omnipotence means no situation is beyond his control. Yet, these attributes aren't meant to intimidate us but to invite us into deeper trust. While we cannot fully comprehend God, we can know him personally and experience his character in our daily lives.

**TODAY:** Reflect on how God's infinite nature and perfect attributes affect your daily life. Thank him for being both greater than you can imagine and closer than you can comprehend. Choose one challenge you're facing and consider how God's limitless wisdom, power and presence speak to that situation.