

# THE TREASURE JESUS INITIATIVE

CASE STATEMENT | DEVOTIONAL GUIDE | FAQs



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From my heart  
For the good of our church  
For the glory of King Jesus

Asking Him to do more in us than I  
could ever ask, hope, or imagine

--Daniel

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WHY  
TREASURE  
JESUS  
A CASE FOR GOING ALL-IN

## **THE TREASURE JESUS INITIATIVE**

TOTAL, TWO-YEAR GOAL | \$4 MILLION

The Treasure Jesus Initiative is an opportunity for everyone who calls North Roanoke home to respond to the generosity of Jesus by giving extravagantly for the progress of the gospel – deep into our lives and out into our community and the world.

While there is a financial goal, the success of this initiative cannot ultimately be measured in dollars and cents. The fundamental goal of this effort is that Jesus would have more of us and that the world would have less of us -- that we would experience the joy and freedom that comes as we treasure Jesus and go all-in for Him and those He calls us to serve, bless, and to reach.

During the Treasure Jesus Initiative, we will, for several weeks, focus on what the Lord says about the relationship between our giving and our love for Jesus. We long for God to multiply our love for His Son as we treasure Him above all other things.

We know there is a vital connection between our attachment to earthly treasures and our adoration of Jesus because Jesus says so. In Matt 6:19-21, He commands us: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

In other words, Jesus says, “Show me your treasure, and I will show you your heart.” During the Treasure Jesus Initiative, we will take Jesus at His word, trusting that, as we focus on Christ's call to “lay up treasures in heaven,” the Spirit will work in our hearts and lead us to treasure Jesus above all other things.

Because treasuring Jesus by giving Him our earthly treasure is a privilege and responsibility God gives to all Christians, we are asking everyone to go all-in for Jesus and His Kingdom by generously supporting His church.

By God's enabling grace and through the generous response of His people, we are asking God to grow our total giving from approximately \$1.1M in one year to \$4 million over the next two years! The only way this kind of growth can happen is if, together, we go all-in on treasuring Jesus and trust Him to provide.

To express our deep desire for God's presence and work among us, we are asking Him to open our hearts to the joy of giving like Jesus. We want to trust Him with everything we have and all we are, so others may know our all-generous Savior.

So, over the next two years, we will focus all of our generosity (tithes, offerings, extra gifts) into the Treasure Jesus fund. This is a single fund that will provide the resources to grow our current ministries, save for phase 1 facility renovations and improvements, bless our community, reach the ends of the earth, and, we pray, make us more like our Savior.

God is giving us an opportunity to demonstrate to ourselves and to the watching world that Jesus is our greatest treasure. The Treasure Jesus Initiative is about our intentional pursuit of what God desires for us -- that we would truly treasure Jesus and that, as we do, others would be blessed to behold Jesus and treasure Him too. Now is the time for all of us to join together to declare to ourselves and to God that our hunger for Him exceeds our hunger for the things of this world.

God is graciously bringing this season of challenge and opportunity to pursue the heart of Christ through our giving. By God's grace, we will come to experience the exhilarating liberty of treasuring Jesus by going all-in for Him and His mission in our church, our community, and around the world. Now is the time to treasure Jesus!

### **Treasure Jesus for the Good of His Church Goal | \$1,870,000**

As we have emerged from a pandemic, we have been blessed to see many new and returning faces who are eager to hear and heed God's Word. To make healthy disciples, we must strive to be a healthy church. We desire to live — both in our individual lives and in our lives together — in obedience to God's Word as an act of devotion to King Jesus.

Over the next two years, by funding the following areas (listed below), the Treasure Jesus for the Good of His Church Goal will make it possible to provide ongoing discipleship and equipping for everyone who is engaged with our family of faith.

- **Facilitating Ministries** | Everything "behind the scenes" needed to catalyze worship, ministry, and discipleship on our campus and in the community.
- **Word and Worship** | Salary and wage support for those leading us in the word and worship along with other specialized costs related to worship ministry (e.g. copyrights, etc.)
- **Student Ministry** | Salary support for student ministry leadership and resources for investing in students throughout the year (e.g. camps, retreats, etc.).
- **Kids Ministry** | Salary support for kids ministry leadership and resources for investing in kids throughout the year (e.g. VBS, camps, etc.).
- **Adult Discipleship** | Literature for 3D groups, Wednesday evening LIFE classes, and various other adult-discipleship resources and training opportunities.
- **Debt Payoff** | The existing debt will be eliminated by Dec 2024.

### **Treasure Jesus to Impact the Valley Goal | \$1,835,000**

As we Treasure Jesus, we want to magnify Him in the Roanoke Valley. One way we Treasure Jesus is by blessing others in His name and by declaring His matchless worth in our community.

Over the next two years, by funding the following areas (listed below), the Treasure Jesus to Impact the Valley Goal will provide resources to be a source of blessing in the Roanoke Valley and to be engaged in God's mission in our community.

**Reach Roanoke Initiatives/Support** | Salary support for missions and community leadership as well as designated resources to be used to bless others and mobilize us in God's work in the surrounding community.



- **Roanoke Valley Baptist Association** | A partnership of churches in the Valley to do mission and ministry work together with other congregations.
- **Kids/Gym Facilities Enhancements** | If we reach the \$4M goal for the overall Treasure Jesus Initiative, we will be able to proceed with phase 1 master-plan improvements including a relocation of the preschool and kids ministries to the main hallway and back half of the existing sanctuary and some improvements to the gym to make it more aesthetically and acoustically suitable for worship. While buildings do not save people, they are, in our culture and context, an important part of facilitating effective ministry, and guests do notice the quality and security of spaces -- especially children's spaces.

### **Treasure Jesus to Reach the World Goal | \$295,000**

- **Short-term Missions/DR** | Salary support for missions and community leadership and resources to help members take short-term mission and disaster relief trips.
- **International Mission Board** | As we Treasure Jesus together, we will support more than 3,500 missionaries and their 2,600 children who are serving Jesus by making Him known among the nations.
- **Virginia Missions** | Support for mission, ministry, church planting, church health, and church revitalization efforts throughout the Commonwealth.
- **North American Missions** | Support for church planting in strategic locations in the U.S., U.S. Territories, and Canada.
- **Seminaries** | Support for six regional seminaries across the country which are training pastors, teachers, counselors, and missionaries to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission.

### **Faith Commitment Sunday | Sunday, November 13**

On November 13, everyone who calls North Roanoke home will have an opportunity to Treasure Jesus as we go all-in to strengthen our church, impact the Valley, and reach the world, all for the glory of King Jesus!

The Treasure Jesus Initiative is about all of us — every individual and every family making a two-year commitment of ourselves and our resources as we respond to the matchless grace of God that we have received in Christ Jesus.

Some will begin giving generously. Others will discover the joy of going beyond the tithe. Some will be blessed to give from stored resources — blessings God has provided in the past that can be used to support His work today.

All of us have an opportunity to give ourselves afresh to Christ and trust Him to exceed our greatest expectations for the progress of the gospel in us, throughout the Valley, and around the world. Together, let's Treasure Jesus above all other treasures and watch Him work!

LORD  
PREPARE  
OUR  
HEARTS

## WEEK 1 | TREASURE JESUS AND THE KINGDOM

**Theme Verse** | The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. — Matthew 13:44

**Key Texts** | Deuteronomy 8:11-20; Matthew 13:44-46

**Central Truth of the Devotion** | Life in the Kingdom belongs to those who treasure Jesus.

**Introduction** | There is something that is just a bit intimidating about going all-in, isn't there? Whenever we go all-in for something, we leave ourselves defenseless to seize the opportunity before us. We see this in sports when a hockey team pulls their goalie out of the game to put in an extra offensive player to try and even the score. The opportunity to tie the score is worth the risk of leaving their goal undefended. When someone achieves great success because of their radical commitment, people applaud. But, when someone goes all-in on a career, a stock, an invention, or the latest idea and fails, people often ask how they could have been "so foolish."

Going all-in is often optional in sports, business, or politics, but it is essential in the things that matter most. Some people may call this "extreme," but Jesus calls it faith and faithfulness. The call to treasure Jesus is a call to go all-in for Him. Over the next several weeks, we will see that Jesus calls every Christian to give up on the idea that we can somehow defend, protect, or secure ourselves. To treasure Jesus is to understand any security we think we have outside of Christ is an illusion that can actually keep us from treasuring Jesus.

We may seek security in many things — our abilities, our education, our knowledge, our proximity to our family. Over the next few weeks, we will focus on what the Bible often presents as the chief threat to our treasuring of Jesus — our earthly treasure.

## The Dangers of God's Financial Blessings

The call to treasure Jesus is a call to entirely entrust ourselves to the loving care of our Heavenly Father in every way. This especially involves our finances. Jesus says more about money than heaven and hell combined. Why? He knows virtually everything we do has a dollar value attached to it. This is why He emphasizes the dangers of money. When we understand everything we own belongs to Jesus, it is not too difficult to understand that everything we say, do, buy, eat, think, etc. should be done for the glory of Christ in grateful response to His indescribable gift.

The blessing of God's financial provision comes with many dangers. After three years as his disciple, Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. The sad truth is that Jesus is still betrayed for financial gain. The Bible includes many warnings about how money can prevent us from enjoying a relationship with the living God. We will consider Deuteronomy 8:11-20 and Matthew 13:44-46.

**Read Deuteronomy 8:11-20** | "Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15 who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, 16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. 17 Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' 18 You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

19 And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. 20 Like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God."

### **Reflection Questions**

- How does Moses describe what life in the land will be like in verses 12 and 13?
- How does this list compare with how most people describe "The American Dream?"
- How does this list compare with your dreams?
- Does this passage say the ability to create and accumulate wealth is evil? (see 1 Tim 6:10).
- Read Ezekiel 7:19. The prophet tells us our earthly treasures will be worthless in the Day of Christ's return. How has/should this reality impact(ed) your relationship with earthly treasure?

**Read Matthew 13:44–46** | "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

**Devotional Observations** | Have you ever wondered about that field with the hidden treasure? Did it have a huge cash crop? Or, other than the treasure, was it worthless? We just don't know. That's the point. Jesus minimizes the importance of the field to help us understand it did not matter compared to the value of the hidden treasure. To have Jesus is to have everything, and that radically impacts how we view "our things."

### **Reflection Questions**

- In both parables above, what did it cost the man to attain the treasure?

- What did it cost Jesus to make His treasure available to you?
- What is the kingdom of heaven worth to you?
- What are the evidences in your life for your answer to the question above?

## **Summary Thought**

The call to treasure Jesus is a call of love! There's nothing greater than Jesus. One of the primary ways He invites us to us to treasure Him is to give regularly and generously so: 1) our hearts may be free from the idols our "stuff" so easily attracts, and 2) our hearts would grow in love for Jesus and His Kingdom mission until He comes.

## **Self-Reflection (check all that apply)**

- I find my fulfillment in my currently-chosen lifestyle.
- At times, I feel entitled to or guilty about the resources God has entrusted to me.
- I sometimes cling to a false security that comes with having more than enough.
- I consider myself a faithful steward of God's resources.
- I desire to be found faithful in my stewardship of all Christ has given to me.
- My family (children, grandchildren, etc.) can see that I/we treasure Jesus and His mission more than the comforts of life by the way I/we use God's resources.

## **Conclusion**

If the thought of treasuring Jesus by laying down earthly treasure makes you a bit weak in the knees, remember it is not possible in your own power. Ask God for His help. We've all felt this way, and our prayer is that God will honor our desire to seize this opportunity to Treasure Jesus and His Kingdom above all other treasures.

**Pray |** Heavenly Father, I want to treasure your Son and help advance His Kingdom. Please help me to treasure Jesus above all other treasures. Forgive me for the times that I have treasured things ahead of Jesus. Fill me with your Spirit, and guide me and my family to seek first the Kingdom of God in all things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



## WEEK 2 | TREASURE JESUS WITH THANKSGIVING

**Theme Verses** | You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. — 2 Corinthians 9:11-12

**Key Texts** | Luke 17:11-19; 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

**Central Truth of the Devotion** | Being rescued by Jesus leads to thankfulness for Jesus — in us and those we reach.

**Introduction** | On April 16, 2007, Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people at Virginia Tech in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history at that time. Most victims were college students who had ventured out to class on a cold and blustery April morning.

Those moments of terror deeply impacted the campus and her people. Walking across the campus, one could feel the fragility of life in the air. In every conversation, you could feel the questions: “Why here? Why us? Why not me?”

But, even amidst this great tragedy, there were remarkable stories of hope, bravery, and gratitude. One man in particular captured our attention. When Liviu Librescu, a 76-year-old Holocaust survivor, professor, and internationally-recognized aeronautical engineer, realized the shooter was coming to his class, he locked the door, barricaded it with his body, and urged his students to flee. As the last few students jumped to safety, Librescu was killed.

Librescu surrendered his life, so students could live. Librescu, the scholar, gave up his life so his scholars-in-training could pursue lifelong scholarship and learning. Librescu, the father, gave up his life, so many sons and daughters could live. The death of one resulted in life for many. These students knew they had been rescued at a great cost, and it led to expressions of gratitude. Graduate student Philip Huffstetler said, “Librescu should be recognized as a hero. We should be in such great

debt to his family for the rest of our lives" (Holocaust Survivor, Professor Killed Helping Students Escape, Fox News, April 17, 2007. Accessed August 24, 2014).

As Christians, we have been rescued not only by a good man but by the God-Man. We have been spared everlasting death through the great mercy and grace of God. Because Jesus died in our place, we have the promise of everlasting life and, like Librescu's students, we should be grateful for the life we have been given for the rest of our lives - and, praise God, forevermore! We see an example of this in Luke 17:11-19.

**Read Luke 17:11-19** | On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. 12 And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." 14 When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

### **Passage Summary**

In these verses, we see seven characteristics of genuine thanksgiving that can help us consider the thankfulness within our own hearts for God's great gift of Christ and His salvation.

1. *True thanksgiving begins with the understanding that, spiritually speaking, we are lepers (vv. 11-12).*

Our gratitude to God for who we are in Christ begins with understanding who we were. According to Paul, we were "dead in our trespasses and sins" and "by nature children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:1, 3). Spiritually, we were like lepers.

We too had a contagious, terminal disease which made us unclean and separated us from God and His people – our sin. Like the lepers, we always had to “stand at a distance” (v. 11), never enjoying nearness to God and His people, always alienated by the condition of our sinfulness. True thanksgiving begins with understanding that, apart from Jesus, we all have incurable leprosy of the soul. Because of sin, we were: Unclean. Banished from the community. Alive but rotting, dying, yet deserving of death. But, through Jesus, we've been healed, transformed, and taken from death to life because Jesus bore our sin and calls us His own!

*2. True thanksgiving confesses complete dependence on God for mercy (v. 13).*

When the lepers asked Jesus to show them mercy, they were not shy about it! They “lifted up their voices.” Over and over again, they cried out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When God shows us mercy, He withholds from us the punishment we deserve. The lepers understood they had to be separated from others because of their leprosy. They understood there was nothing they could do to help themselves. They were entirely dependent upon Jesus, and they were not ashamed to beg for mercy.

*3. True thanksgiving always leads us back to Jesus (v. 15).*

According to the laws of leprosy (Leviticus 14), the priests would declare if God had truly cured a leper of his leprosy. When the lepers arrived at the priests, they are walking evidence that God's healing comes through Jesus. It was not the priests who healed; it was God! One leper, as he was healed, must have put the pieces together. Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised in the Scriptures. Jesus had cleansed him without even touching him and without even being in the same location. Jesus was Son of God and Son of Man! Most of the lepers were happy to have clean skin and move on with their lives. But one leper could not go on without thanking Jesus for what He had done! Every leper had confessed their need for God's mercy, but only one allowed his gratitude to take him back to Jesus; only one was doubly-healed. True healing from Jesus leads us to Jesus with thanksgiving.

*4. True thanksgiving is offered at the feet of Jesus (v. 16).*

Verses 15 and 16 show that worship and thanksgiving are inseparable. The leper who had lifted his voice to beg for mercy is now lifting his voice in praise. We become genuinely thankful when we have been healed by the One who is worthy of our worship. As the former leper, he lays on his face at Jesus' feet. All he can do is keep "giving him thanks." Laying at the feet of someone is a way of acknowledging their authority. True thanksgiving comes from a heart that joyfully recognizes the authority of Jesus to ask us to do even challenging things as we follow Him.

**Reflection Questions**

- Does Jesus have authority over your finances and possessions?
- Are there any assets or possessions you have that you have considered "off the table" for God (e.g. a favorite car, an unused retirement account, an old piece of property, etc.)?
- What do you suppose the former leper's response would have been if Jesus had asked him to devote the rest of his life, even his possessions, to following Him?

*5. True thanksgiving is rare (v. 17).*

Jesus is the One who stresses the nine who did not return to give thanks. His point is that true thanksgiving to Jesus and for Jesus is rare. Many people, like the nine other former lepers, are satisfied with a temporary cure. They never come to a point of desperation and grief over sin that leads them to joyfully offer themselves to God with no conditions. It is easy to say we are thankful for Jesus. It is much more difficult to say, "Jesus, take my life and all that I have, and use me for Your glory." This is the sort of thanksgiving that Jesus seeks and delights to use.

*6. True thanksgiving is expressed by those who have been outsiders (v. 18).*

The former leper who returns to Jesus is "a Samaritan" (v. 16) and "a foreigner" (v. 18). "Foreigner" means "from another tribe." According to

Lev 13:46, lepers were “unclean” and, therefore, had to remain “outside the camp.” The leper who returned was an outsider because of his ethnic background and his disease. No one would have expected a Samaritan to be the one to demonstrate gratitude and find favor with God. But, that is how the Kingdom of God works. He rescues people who come to the end of themselves and find that Jesus is worthy of their very lives. True thanksgiving is offered by those who understand they were living outside of God’s camp and that they deserved to be separated from the favorable presence of God – forever.

*7. True thanksgiving comes from a heart that is truly well (v. 19).*

Verse 19 concludes with a significant twist. Jesus does not speak of physical leprosy but of leprosy of the soul. Jesus literally says, “Your faith has saved you.” Something more than the leper’s skin had been healed. He had been given a new heart. His heart had been made well. True thanksgiving is impossible unless the Spirit rips out our idolatrous hearts of stone and gives us hearts which glory in Christ alone.

Even the ability to truly be thankful and to give from a heart of thanksgiving is a gift of God’s grace. This is exactly what Paul says 2 Corinthians when speaking of the generous gifts that have been given for the saints struggling in the Jerusalem church.

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:11-15** | You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

## Passage Summary

Notice carefully what Paul is saying. It is a tremendous and exciting truth. The thanksgiving the Corinthians have for Jesus has led to a tangible expression of their gratitude – generous giving. In this case, they are supporting other saints in need. This support, given because of their thanksgiving to Jesus, will overflow in more thanksgiving among the believers in Jerusalem and the others who will be reached as a result.

No wonder Paul concludes, “Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!” Generous giving then, comes from hearts which treasure Jesus with thanksgiving and leads to hearts which treasure Jesus with thanksgiving.

## Self-Reflection (check all that apply)

- I view giving as a gift from God to express my thanksgiving for Jesus.
- When I give, I tend to focus more on what I am giving up than on the joy of belonging to Jesus.
- God has stirred in my heart to give generously before, and it was amazing.
- God has stirred in my heart to give generously, and I rationalized not giving or giving less than He was leading me to give.
- I recognize Christ died for the church, and I see support for the church as an expression of thankfulness to and for Jesus.
- I am thankful to God for His amazing grace.
- I want the Spirit to help me connect my thanksgiving for Jesus and the practice of generously supporting my local church.

## Pray

Dear God, please grant us hearts that are united in true thanksgiving which leads to generous giving for the advance of the gospel deep into our lives and to the ends of the earth. Help me walk in gratitude and joy, remembering always that Jesus has rescued me from the power and penalty of sin. Help me rely upon You in all things. Help me see myself like a hopeless leper rescued by Jesus. Thank you for healing me. Thank you for rescuing me. Thank you, Jesus for the gift of thanksgiving. Amen.

## WEEK 3 | TREASURE JESUS FOR THE NATIONS

**Theme Verses** | May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us — so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. — Psalm 67:1-2

**Key Texts** | Psalm 67

**Central Truth of the Devotion** | God blesses us with the treasure of knowing Jesus to fuel our passion for helping people from all nations to treasure Jesus.

**Introduction** | There are many good reasons for giving good gifts. But, God's gift is different in one very important way. When God sent His Son to die, He did so "even while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8). Jesus came on a rescue mission even though we were rebelliously at war with Him. It may be difficult to imagine giving good gifts to our enemies, but that is what God has done. In Col 1:21, Paul writes that we were "alienated and hostile in mind," and in Eph 2:2, he says that we were followers of "the prince of the power of the air."

We were enemies of God, but Jesus still came to give Himself for us. Now, God calls us to give ourselves for those who do not yet know the joy of treasuring Jesus. This is the essence of our mission and a key purpose of our salvation - that we would give ourselves and our resources and reach the ends of the earth with the gospel. As we see in Psalm 67, the Lord has blessed us with the treasure of knowing Jesus to fuel our passion for helping people from all nations to treasure Him along with us.

### Read Psalm 67

God be merciful to us and bless us,  
And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah  
2 That Your way may be known on earth,  
Your salvation among all nations.  
3 Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
Let all the peoples praise You.

4 Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!  
For You shall judge the people righteously,  
And govern the nations on earth. Selah  
5 Let the peoples praise You,  
O God; Let all the peoples praise You.  
6 Then the earth shall yield her increase;  
God, our own God, shall bless us.  
7 God shall bless us,  
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

### **Passage Summary**

This is a psalm that serves as a prophecy of the fulfillment of the Great Commission through God's people. In seven stanzas (seven signifying completion/perfection), the psalmist expresses confidence that God will fulfill His world-wide rescue mission through His people. And, he declares for us a key purpose of our salvation: we have been blessed to know God personally through faith in Jesus to fulfill God's global mission – the Great Commission – with our lips, our lives, and our livelihood.

Notice a few things about this text:

- The words “bless us” occur three times.
- The word translated “peoples” or “nations” occurs eight times.
- The word “all” occurs four times.

The psalmist wants us to know there is a strong relationship between God's blessing and His pursuit of people from all nations. Verses 3 and 5 are identical. They “frame” verse four which is the central and unifying theme of the entire psalm. Verse four mentions the good and just rule of God with His people which is coming for all eternity. This is the new heavens and earth where Christ our King rules with all peoples who belong to Him. This vision of eternity is the purpose of our present blessing which should impact how we live.

The purpose of God's blessing of salvation in Jesus is the praise of Jesus among all of the peoples in all the earth for all time.



## Reflection Questions

- What do most people think of when they think of being blessed?
- How does this thought (from the above question) compare with how the psalmist describes blessing in the second half of verse 1?

True blessing is connected to beholding the face of God – knowing Him personally, being known by Him now, and looking forward to when we see our Savior face-to-face. True blessing is to live in right relationship with God.

If you belong to Jesus, you have the blessing the psalmist prayed for, and you have the privilege of being used to advance God's mission to all peoples. The physical resources God provides to us are not intended to be a source of burden, stress, or heartache, but a tool we use to serve God faithfully, enjoying His creation, and joining in the world-wide advance of the gospel. If you know and belong to Jesus, you have been blessed beyond measure.

**Self-Reflection** (Respond to the questions below as honestly as you can. Circle one, 1 being “strongly disagree” and 5 being “strongly agree”)

- |                                                                       |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| I tend to compare what I give to what others give.                    | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| I give primarily because of the tax benefit or a sense of obligation. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| I pay close attention to how others use their money.                  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| I feel guilty spending any money on myself or my enjoyment.           | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| I have gone without something I wanted, so I could give.              | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| I view people wealthier than me as more blessed by God than me.       | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| I prioritize generous giving so others may know true blessing.        | 1 2 3 4 5 |

## Reflection Questions

- Do you consider yourself rich?
- Does anything keep you from feeling as though God has been very generous with you?

## Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and focus particularly on verses 4-7.

- What has God given to you?

## Re-read Psalm 67 (printed above)

- How is God working in your heart through what you've learned?
- What scares you most?
- What is most exciting?

## Prayer

Exalted King Jesus, please grant me the faith and courage to respond to the blessing of knowing you with the totality of my life. Help me/us to live and give in ways that declare how infinitely good and worthy You are. Help me to yearn for Your presence and power. Jesus, you are the Treasure. Help me treasure You above all other treasures, and use our church to bring the nations to praise You. Make me eager to give my all for the progress of the gospel deep within our North Roanoke family of faith and then out to our neighbors and people from all nations. Jesus, You alone are worthy, and I praise You. Amen.

## WEEK 4 | TREASURE JESUS BY HAVING THE MIND OF JESUS

**Theme Verses** | Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus — Phil. 2:3-5

**Key Texts** | Philippians 2:3-11; 4:10-20

**Central Truth of the Devotion** | Treasuring Jesus with our finances helps us reflect and cultivate the mind of Christ, demonstrating the power of the gospel and pointing others to Jesus.

**Introduction** | When Elizabeth was just four years old, Stacie and I took Elizabeth to sing Christmas carols at nearby rest homes. We thought this would be an opportunity for her to learn that belonging to Jesus means a lifelong commitment to blessing and serving others.

When we arrived at the first rest home, a crowd of residents gathered in a large community room. Most were confined to wheelchairs. Several could not speak, and many were suffering with dementia and other cognitive challenges. As we sang, however, many residents began to sing with us.

We thought we were really serving the residents well. But, somehow, I felt something was missing. And, in that very moment, as we sang *Joy to the World*, Elizabeth began walking — and then running — toward a lady whose arms were outstretched. Elizabeth reached up to give her a hug and then proceeded to hug everyone in the room.

Elizabeth did not notice the residents' physical or mental condition or anything else that had prevented the adults from reaching down and showing the love of Christ. As smiles erupted on residents' faces, tears flowed down my own.

Elizabeth reminded me that counting others as more important than myself begins with seeing as Jesus sees and loving as Jesus loves. It

means going the extra mile. Sometimes it means getting dirty or doing what is uncomfortable. It always means having the mind of Christ. In our work, our serving, our living, and our giving, Jesus is the model. This is exactly what Paul says to the church at Philippi as he encourages them toward unity in the gospel. True unity comes to the people of God when they are united in their desire to treasure Jesus by *thinking* like Jesus. When we treasure Jesus, our focus remains on Christ who humbly gave Himself for us, and the gospel spreads in ways that exceed our greatest expectations.

**Read Philippians 2:3-11** | Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Passage Summary**

Paul begins by telling us that those who have been rescued by Jesus should think and live like Jesus. This is how the church will remain united in the gospel – by having the mind of Jesus. It is likewise how the world will know the power of the gospel to change lives. In other words, the gospel comes to us through Jesus who laid down His life for us, and it sustains the church and goes outward to others as we lay down our lives like Jesus. This requires, in our living, and in our giving, the mind of Jesus who left heaven for earth to be born and die a cruel death to glorify His Father and rescue sinners. When Jesus left the glory and praise of heaven, He did not cling to the privileges of His Deity. Instead, He became the God-Man to rescue rebellious sinners like us.

So, what does it look like to have the mind of Christ among us?

*1. Jesus refused to cling to the privileges of His Deity (v. 6).*

Rather than grasping at what was rightfully His (v. 6), God the Son instead “emptied Himself” by taking on humanity to rescue us. There was no other way (see Heb 2:17-18).

### **Reflection Questions**

- What earthly privileges, comforts, and advantages threaten to keep us back from treasuring Jesus by having a selfless mind like Jesus?
- What if reaching the poor, sick, tired, and hungry among us required that we would willingly become like them to rescue them?
- What if taking the low place through generous giving is a way that God has given to His people to show the world the truth of the gospel – that Jesus is truly our greatest treasure and the only treasure we need?
- Would we treasure Jesus together?
- How could your living and your giving better reflect the mind of Jesus?

*2. Jesus willingly took the lowest place to deliver the lowest of men (vv. 7-9).*

God the Son emptied Himself by setting aside the privileges of His deity when He was conceived in Mary. The exalted Son of God willingly took the lowest of places. The depth of Jesus’ descent is mind-blowing, and it is His mind-blowing humility that is the model for our living and giving. Consider what Jesus did.

- God the Son, who was surrounded by angels who serve and worship Him constantly, became a servant.
- God the Son did not just come as a man; He was born like the people He came to save.
- God the Son did not live above his fellow man; He lived as a man in human flesh.

Jesus became like us, so that He could rescue us. This means Jesus experienced real human emotions. He felt pain; He was hungry, thirsty, and tired. He knew the depths of human despair and suffering — but never sinned. Of course, the suffering Jesus endured reached its climax at the cross.

- The One who is life obeyed the Father even when it meant His death.
- God the Son even suffered the shame of death on the cross to give us life.

But death could not hold Jesus, and it is that same resurrection power that frees us from pride and idolatry — from worshiping earthly treasure rather than treasuring our King who is alive!

Almost as suddenly as the resurrection, Paul's text takes a dramatic turn. Though Jesus died, because of His radical obedience, the Father "super exalted" Him (v. 9) in His resurrection and ascension. Paul invents a word (super-exalted) to tell us how highly the Father esteems the Son. Jesus is given the name which is above every name in order that all nations might bow the knee to our great God and King (vv. 10-11)! Through Jesus' death, we have true life which frees us to live without fear of dying. Because we have already died with Christ, we are free to deny ourselves for the surpassing joy of treasuring Jesus -- just as Jesus commands (see Luke 9:23).

The truth is we cannot live this way on our own. We must reflect on the gospel and be fueled by the gospel. When we do, the Spirit leads us to treasure Jesus by living and thinking like Jesus. And what did Jesus do? He so desired to glorify His Father and rescue sinners that He went to the cross "for the joy set before Him" (Heb 12:2). May God grant us His enabling presence and power to live and think so selflessly as a response to the unmatched treasure of knowing Jesus.

**Read Philippians 4:10-17** | I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be

content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me. 14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **Passage Summary**

Paul concludes his letter by confirming that having a mind that is like that of Jesus (2:5) means giving like Jesus. The church had sent him a gift to support him in his gospel work, even during his imprisonment. Paul tells us that he has learned to be truly content in all circumstances, and he is urging us to do the same. The opportunity to be generous is actually a gift from Jesus, a gift He uses to free us from our attachment to things and open our hearts to treasure Him, bless others, and extend the Kingdom in the process.

As we give, we gain the sort of fruit (v. 17) that truly satisfies those who belong to God by faith (v. 17). We gain a greater awareness of God's provision in our lives, and we gain true gospel fruit as we set aside our privileges so others might come to know our Great King.

**Self-Reflection** (Respond to the questions below as honestly as you can. Circle one, 1 being "strongly disagree" and 5 being "strongly agree")

When I receive unexpected income, I consider giving some of it away.

1 2 3 4 5

I have a strong desire to take the low place so others  
may know Christ. 1 2 3 4 5

I am afraid of truly going all-in like Jesus. 1 2 3 4 5

I genuinely love Christ and His mission more than  
all comforts. 1 2 3 4 5

My giving is a clear expression of my  
inward passion for Jesus. 1 2 3 4 5

### **Prayer**

Consider the following quotations as you pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit in your life and in the life of our church.

"Giving is a joyful surrender to a greater person and a greater agenda. It dethrones me and exalts Him." — Randy Alcorn

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." — Jim Elliot



## WEEK 5 | TREASURE JESUS IS FOR ALL OF US

**Theme Verses** | And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. – Acts 2:44-45

**Key Texts** | Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Luke 16:10-18

**Central Truth of the Devotions** | Treasuring Jesus with our finances is a privilege and responsibility that God gives to every Christian.

**Monday: Learning to Swim** | Teaching Elizabeth to swim seemed like it should be a breeze. At six years old, her legs were stronger than those of most nine-year-old boys, and she loved the water. But, teaching her to swim ended up being quite a challenge, because successful swimming takes more than good technique. Good kicking, good pulling, and even a good head turn are insufficient.

Before all those things, good swimming requires good floating. And, Elizabeth simply would not float! She refused to relax and allow the water to support her. As soon as I let her go, her muscles tightened in fear, and her body sank – the opposite of what is needed to swim!

The local church is often the same way. On the outside, everything looks great – good preaching, good teachers, good small groups, good facilities, good outreach, good programs, good evangelism, and a good website, but she still struggles to swim.

Like a child who refuses to float, the church's progress and impact will be hindered until she learns that treasuring Jesus through generous giving is a practice God desires for every Christian. In Acts, we learn one of the key marks of a Christian is that they delight to participate in the community of God through generous giving (Acts 2:44-45). We cannot thrive for the glory of God if we do not treasure His Son.

Just as it is impossible to swim if you cannot float; a church will not thrive if she does not consistently and generously respond to the gospel in our giving.

The good news is that Elizabeth finally did learn to swim. The moment she stopped being afraid of sinking, she began swimming. I imagine that everyone who has ever learned to swim can remember that feeling of giving up and letting the water hold us. To treasure Jesus as God intends, we must all take the plunge and trust God to sustain us as we surrender control of everything to God — especially our finances.

### **Reflection Question**

- What, if anything, is tempting you to miss the opportunity to follow the Spirit's leading to treasure Jesus through generous support of your local church?
- If the Lord gave you an answer to the question above, spend time asking God to help you desire what He desires and to treasure Jesus supremely.

### **Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, You are always faithful. Thank you for giving us our daily bread and for giving us life in Jesus, the Bread of Life. When doubts and fears fill my mind, remind me of Your goodness and of the gospel. God, give us Your strength to overcome our fears as we treasure Jesus. God, help us to know how to give and to truly trust You. Please free us from anything that is holding us back, and, as we give, please hold us up, and grant us joy unspeakable as we treasure Your Son above all other things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Tuesday: "Little is Much When God is in It" |** In our first devotional for this week, we considered that generous giving is not for just a few Christians but for all Christians. Over the next few days, we will consider Scriptures that reveal this truth.

**Read Mark 12:41-44 (Luke 21:1-4) |** And [Jesus] sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. 43 And he called his

disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. 44 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

### **Passage Summary**

When we consider God's call to treasure Jesus through regular and generous giving, excuses can flood our minds. "But God, I'm not the rich young ruler, Zacchaeus the tax collector, or any of the other wealthy people in Scripture."

There will always be a temptation to delay our obedience to God's call to treasure Jesus and His Kingdom, but this text demonstrates generous giving is not reserved for the wealthy.

In response to our excuses, Jesus tells us about the gift from a "poor widow" (v. 42) who gives "out of her poverty" (v. 44). This woman is doubly burdened. She has virtually nothing to meet her needs, and she is a widow – she has no one to provide for her. She is not just poor but a poor widow.

Her situation is desperate. Jesus mentions the woman's poverty three times in three verses (vv. 42, 43, 44) because He wants us to understand generous giving is for everyone. If the poor widow who gives her last coins can give, certainly we can.

If anyone had an excuse for not being generous, the poor widow did. But, she doesn't cling to excuses. Instead, she serves as a jaw-dropping picture of grateful trust in God – the God who delights to take the seemingly small gifts of His people and use them in big ways.

Indeed (be sure we get this!), Jesus says the poor widow gave more than the rich who "put in large sums." This is possible because Jesus measures our giving not by the number of zeroes on our envelope but what we have remaining after we give. Obviously, we know from other passages

that God wants us to provide for our families, but He always wants all of our hearts, and He desires — both for us and from us — the sort of generous giving that reflects the infinite worth of King Jesus.

The poor widow gave her all, and Christ is glorified to this day by others who have been inspired by her sacrificial generosity. No matter your financial position, Christ is calling all of us to treasure Jesus above all other treasures as we strive to be Christ's church, impact the Valley, and reach the nations all for the glory of our King — a King who laid down His life for us.

This Sunday, let's go all-in on treasuring Jesus, trusting that He will be exalted, the nations blessed, and our hearts abundantly refreshed in His presence.

## **Prayer**

Pray for our family of faith today. Pray especially for God to work in each family, leading us all to participate with grateful and generous hearts under the prompting and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

**Wednesday: What about the wealthy? |** As we think about what God's Word says about the responsibilities of the wealthy when it comes to treasuring Jesus, we should keep in mind that, by comparison with Christians around the world, a majority of us are "wealthy."

## **Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (cf. Luke 16:19-31, Matt. 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31)**

| As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

## Passage Summary

In these verses, we see that treasuring Jesus is for everyone and especially the rich in this present age. As Paul concludes his instructions to Timothy on life in the local church, he turns to the issue of generous giving. Specifically, he speaks of the responsibility of those who “are rich in this present age” to give generously because it helps them maintain their trust in God “who richly provides” (v. 17).

Paul clearly believes treasuring Jesus with our giving is a mission-critical issue. He tells Timothy to “charge” or “command” the rich to be generous.

Can you imagine that? Young Timothy with the nervous stomach is commanded to urge the wealthy in his congregation to give. Then Paul adds that generous giving is a part of “tak[ing] hold of that which is truly life” (v. 19). Generous giving is an essential spiritual practice for Christians.

In the gospels, Jesus warns about how wealth often prevents people from entering the Kingdom of God (cf. Luke 16:19–31, Mark 10:17–31). But, it does not have to be that way! In James 2:1–5, we are warned against singling out the rich for special recognition, but Paul adds here that the wealthy should be encouraged toward special sacrifice.

In week one, we learned that riches can pull us away from treasuring Christ and His Kingdom. However, here we see that riches can be given and deployed for the progress of the gospel deep into our lives and around the world. When God gives us riches, He is giving us a special opportunity to show ourselves and the world that Jesus is the greatest treasure — that no amount of money could ever compare to Jesus.

## Reflection Questions

- Sixty percent of the world's population lives on \$10/day or less. Are you wealthy?

- Do you suppose, based on what you read in the verses above, that Paul would have considered “a tithe” to be a generous gift from wealthy Christians?
- Do our kids/grandkids know us as “rich in good works, generous, and ready to share?” How about King Jesus?

**Thursday: Tithers Who are Lovers of Money |** It is often suggested that treasuring Jesus equals tithing. However, Jesus says something in Luke 16 that should make us very cautious about that assumption. Generous giving is, as we will see, a matter of a heart transformed by Jesus to treasure Jesus.

**Read Luke 16:10-18 |** “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? 13 No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” 14 The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. 15 And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. 16 “The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. 17 But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. 18 “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”

### **Passage Summary**

In this text, we see that treasuring Jesus is for everyone, especially religious tithers. The call to treasure Jesus through generous giving is a call to understand we are moved toward generosity not by religious rules but by the redemption and rescue we have in our reigning Lord.

The Pharisees were very good at tithing. But Jesus calls them “lovers of money” (v. 14). The Pharisees gave a tithe, but their motive was to “justify themselves before men” (v. 15). The reality is they could have been much more generous. They could have been a much greater blessing to the poor around them.

Instead, they paid their tithe to justify themselves while their hearts were far from God. Jesus reminds them, as He is reminding us, “God knows your hearts” (v. 15). Jesus wants us to understand it is possible to be a consistent tither and still be a lover of money. Some who could give more generously are stuck on a tithe because the love of money is a difficult love to break. The only way is to keep looking to Jesus and keep communing with the Spirit and asking for help to treasure Jesus.

This is why Luke mentions divorce in the middle of a chapter about giving (vv. 17-18). Jesus wants us to see that the desire to “give the minimum” is not consistent with an abiding love for Christ. When we love something more than God, it is like committing spiritual adultery – like asking Jesus for a divorce.

Christ-focused giving is like the gifts from a husband who has true love for his bride. He joyfully gives her all he can and wishes he could give her more. That is the way it is when we cheerfully give to our King through His church. It is a giving that flows naturally and freely from an ever-deepening love for Christ. The call to treasure Jesus is a call to sacrificial, joy-filled, gospel-motivated, and gospel-reflecting giving that springs from an unquenchable, Spirit-given love for Jesus.

## **Pray**

Today, spend a few minutes of just reflecting on what the Lord has been teaching you, and then pray as the Spirit leads you to pray.

**Friday/Saturday: Treasuring Jesus is for All of Us** | Church family, I pray this booklet has been a tool the Lord has used and is using to open us all up to the magnificent opportunity we have to know, behold, and treasure Jesus. There's literally nothing or no one greater than Him, and I am prayerful that God will, above all else, deepen our love for Jesus and our joy in Jesus as we treasure Jesus through generous giving this Sunday.

**Read Acts 2:44-45** | And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

### **Passage Summary**

As the gospel spreads and the church grows in Acts, we find the entire church is joyfully engaged in generous giving. The entire church finds supreme treasure in Jesus, so they lay down their earthly treasure. As one pastor said, "you know real revival is happening wherever the church is generous."

The call to treasure Jesus is a call to begin where you are and trust God to grow your faith as you give generously in response to the gospel. Some may cancel Hulu; some may skip a phone upgrade; others may play a bit less golf; still others may brew their coffee at home and skip the Starbucks run; some families may eat out less often or live/remain in a smaller home/apartment; others may pick up a second job. May God find us faithful and joyful as, together, we treasure Jesus – trusting God to meet our needs as we seek to be Christ's church, impact the Valley, and reach the world all for the glory of King Jesus!

**Self-Reflection** (Respond to the questions below as honestly as you can. Circle one, 1 being "strongly disagree" and 5 being "strongly agree")

I/we are excited to give/commit generously  
this Sunday in loving response to Christ.

1 2 3 4 5



I am nervous about giving this much,  
but Jesus is worth it!

1 2 3 4 5

This Sunday, I will know the joy of  
being a cheerful giver.

1 2 3 4 5

I cannot wait to see what God does as we go  
all-in and treasure Jesus together!

1 2 3 4 5

## **Worksheet**

Look at the example faith commitment card on pp. 55-57 as you pray together that God would lead you to truly treasure Jesus as you commit to give this Sunday.

## **Prayer**

Dear God, help us. Help us to respond in genuine gratitude and expectation as we seek to treasure Jesus through generous giving this Sunday. Keep us focused on King Jesus and His Kingdom. Keep us from fear, and grant us boldness. Thank you for inviting us to take part in Your mission. Please grow our faith and our joy in Jesus through the grace of giving, and please do more with our gifts than we could ever hope or imagine. In Jesus' Name, Amen

**FREQUENTLY  
ASKED  
QUESTIONS**

## **How does the one-fund approach to the Treasure Jesus Initiative impact my giving to support the various ministries and priorities of the church?**

During this two-year period, we hope every contribution to God's work through North Roanoke will be a contribution to Christ through the Treasure Jesus Initiative. Every aspect of the ministry vision God is calling us to pursue will be funded through the Treasure Jesus Fund as, together, we strive to be Christ's church, impact the Valley, and reach the world all for the glory of King Jesus.

## **Why are we emphasizing one fund for the Treasure Jesus Initiative?**

When we all give to one fund, we can easily celebrate and track all giving as support for the Treasure Jesus Initiative. With a God-sized goal of \$4 million, every dollar given for the progress of the gospel in this way will be a vital part of our combined efforts to treasure Jesus. Second, when giving is designated to different funds, it is easy to place greater value on some giving and less value on other giving. For example, when we separate "missions giving" from "supporting the church," it is easy to forget that support for the local church *is* support for God's mission. The local church is God's Plan A for reaching our community and the nations with the gospel. The one-fund approach reminds us God has one plan for reaching the nations — the local church. We encourage you to let every gift you give for the progress of the gospel through North Roanoke to be a gift in support of the Treasure Jesus Initiative.

## **What are you asking me to do?**

First and most importantly, please pray and seek God's leading in how He wants you to respond. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and listen to what He says. Engage in a small group during this season if you are not already engaged in one. Talk with your spouse and your family about what this faith commitment will mean for this next season of your lives as you come together and seek to Treasure Jesus through generous support of His mission through North Roanoke.

We are asking everyone who calls North Roanoke home to respond to the generosity of the gospel by giving extravagantly for the progress of the gospel deep within our church and outward to our neighbors and the world. Each of us is being called to grow our generosity as the Spirit leads. We are asking God to work through our combined response to His matchless gift to grow our total giving from approximately \$1.1 million annually to \$4 million over the next two years – an 82 percent increase. This initiative will only succeed if God provides, and God’s people give with joyful and grateful hearts.

Everyone who calls North Roanoke home is being asked to express their grateful and obedient response to our eternally generous God by making a 2-year faith commitment on Faith Commitment Sunday, Nov 13. We serve an awesome God, and we are asking Him to exceed our greatest expectations – to do more that we could ever hope or imagine – first in us – and then through our collective Treasuring Jesus faith commitments to Him. Please begin to pray about how the Lord would lead you to give and that we would all be found faithful in our stewardship of all He has entrusted to us (1 Cor 4:2).

**Are there additional ways, other than cash/check/card, that I can give more to the Treasure Jesus Initiative?**

We encourage you to be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give. Some may cancel Hulu; some may stick with their current phone and skip the upgrade; others may play a little less golf; still others may brew their coffee at home and skip the Starbucks run; some families may eat out less often or even stay in a smaller home/apartment to be able to give generously for the progress of the gospel; others may pick up a second job for this season. Find ways to involve your family in the process; use this initiative as an opportunity to teach children and grandchildren about obeying the Lord with a generous heart and trusting Him to do great things.

As you consider how the Lord is leading you to give, consider the stored assets you own. Gifts of appreciated property (stocks, real estate, mutual funds, jewelry, artwork, collectibles, and etc.) often make

outstanding gifts with significant tax advantages. Please consult with a professional advisor for advice in your particular circumstance. If you need assistance with making a gift of property or stock, we would be delighted to help! You can contact Jon Matlock (931.698.5964 | [jonmatlock@gmail.com](mailto:jonmatlock@gmail.com)) with your questions and for instructions on how to do this.

### **How long is my commitment?**

We are asking that everyone make a two-year (25-month) commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our First Big Give Sunday on December 4, and it will culminate on December 31, 2024.

### **What if I am between jobs? What does that mean for my Faith Commitment?**

The Treasure Jesus Initiative is about your total, sacrificial generosity for the advance of the gospel. Christ knows our every need, and North Roanoke takes seriously our responsibility to help to meet needs in our faith family. If you do not have a job and are seeking one, please share your prayer request with us, so our pastors can be praying for you. Also, please consider plugging into a 3D group where you will find a community of co-laborers in the gospel who are ready to encourage you and pray alongside of you. Our hope is that you will not only find a job but that you, and everyone who calls North Roanoke home, will be able to make and fulfill a faith commitment for the Treasure Jesus Initiative.

### **What if I cannot afford to give right now?**

Even when times are tight, God wants our hearts. The widow who gave her last mite did not make a very big financial contribution, but Jesus said she gave the largest gift of all that day. The Treasure Jesus Initiative is about all of us coming together, giving as generously as we can, and trusting God to do the rest. It may mean that God is asking you to trust Him by making a faith commitment that you do not quite know how to fulfill right now. We know that God has supplied our every need in

Christ Jesus, and we trust that God will honor a heart that wants to give generously in response to the gospel. Treasure Jesus means all of us together seeking to be Christ's church, impact the Valley, and reach the world – all for the glory of King Jesus.

### **How long is my commitment?**

We are asking that everyone make a two-year (25-month) commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our First Big Give Sunday on December 4, and it will culminate on December 31, 2024.

### **What if I am in debt right now? Should I still participate?**

If you are currently striving to pay off debt right now, we commend you for making progress on that. And you should continue to do so. But, the Bible does not teach us to withhold giving until we are debt-free. When we honor God first with our giving, He promises to be involved with every other aspect of finances. Please contact us if you need assistance with this or if you would like to speak with a budgeting counselor. Also, we hope you will consider taking the next Financial Peace University class where you will not only learn some great principles of personal finance but also God's perspective on our stewardship of His resources.

### **What if I have not given to North Roanoke before?**

If you haven't given to North Roanoke, Treasure Jesus is for you! Treasure Jesus is not just for people who already give, it is an opportunity for all of us to consider where we are and where God is taking us in our giving and stewardship of all He has entrusted to us. It is a call to treasure Jesus through generous giving for absolutely everyone who calls North Roanoke home. If you have never given before, we pray the Lord will lead you to Treasure Jesus with a joyful and generous commitment that reflects the amazing gift we've been given through Jesus.

## **What if I am a college student?**

College students are notorious for living on tight budgets, but the college years are an ideal time to develop a Kingdom-focused plan in the areas of personal budgeting and generous giving. We encourage you to consider what God has given to you and to get creative and step out in faith as you take part in the Treasure Jesus Initiative.

## **How will the revenue from the Treasure Jesus Initiative be spent?**

Gifts for the Treasure Jesus Initiative will fully fund the normal operating budget. Any funds given in excess of the budgeted needs will be swept into a Phase 1 building fund on a periodic basis. For more information, please see the case statement in the previous section.

## **Will giving for missions/short-term trips be counted as a part of Treasure Jesus?**

Giving for short-term mission trips will, of course, count for much in the Kingdom of God. For budgeting and planning purposes, these gifts are not counted as a part of the Treasure Jesus Initiative.

## **What if I am new around here?**

We are delighted that you are considering partnering with us! The local church is God's plan-A (and He has no plan-B) for conforming our families to the image of Christ, reaching our community, and bringing the gospel to the nations. Treasure Jesus is a great time and a great way to identify with this local community of Christ followers and to say to the Lord, "I want to Treasure Jesus with the North Roanoke family of faith." To learn more about North Roanoke, consider taking the next Discover North Roanoke class (email Pastor Daniel at [daniel@nrbc.org](mailto:daniel@nrbc.org)).

## **Why do churches so often talk about money, finances, and giving?**

This is a good question, and there is a good answer. Jesus spoke more about "money" than He did about "heaven" and "hell" combined. People

take different spiritual steps at different times. Some people begin praying before they begin attending church. Others begin going to a small group before they begin praying. Like prayer, service, and worship, giving is a vital spiritual practice. Like other spiritual practices that God gives Christians to do, giving draws us closer to God, and God expects faithful followers of Christ to become joyful and generous givers. Paul is so concerned about our tendency to separate "our giving" from "our living" that he admonishes us to "excel in the act of the grace of giving also" (2 Cor 8:7). Giving is an essential part of the Christian life.

The church mentions money frequently because money is a frequent area of spiritual attack. The enemy wants to rob the church of the joy of giving and allow the church to excuse their failure to give. He does this because a church that gives generously is a church who comes to experience the joy of the Lord as they Treasure Jesus together. At North Roanoke, we refuse to believe Satan's lie that we can be devoted followers of Jesus while we are stingy with God's resources.

We are never more like Christ than when we give. Christ's entire ministry to us is founded upon the truth that He gave Himself for us. Jesus tells us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). The question God is calling us to answer is this, "Do you really love Christ and His gospel? What is Christ worth? How much do you long for the progress of the gospel? Do we truly Treasure Jesus?" Where we place our physical treasure, according to Jesus, is a strong indicator of what our hearts truly treasure. What does your treasure say about your heart for Christ and His gospel?

### **How much is enough?**

Knowing that we should give is fairly obvious, but knowing how much to give presents a greater challenge. Approximately 400



years before the law was given, both Abraham and Jacob offered the Lord a “tithe” of *everything* the Lord had given to them. The word tithe simply means “a tenth.” In grateful response to the provision and promise of God, these examples of great faith offered the Lord not merely a tenth of their income but a tenth of everything God gave them.

The law codifies the principle of giving a tithe, and it also makes provision for additional offerings to the Lord. Even the law encouraged the people of God to exceed the minimum requirements of the law.

During Christ’s earthly ministry, we learn that He fulfills the promise of the law. This does not mean we no longer give. Rather, it motivates us to give with gratitude to God for keeping His promise and allowing us the joy of being a part of His plan to magnify King Jesus among the nations. In Acts, the church does not allow a legalistic understanding of the tithe to limit their generosity. Instead, they saw the immense needs in the church and gave accordingly.

In short, the tithe is often a good place to start for many believers, but it is seldom a good place to stay. The principle that guides us as we give is this, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich”* (2 Cor 8:9).

The King of Kings left heaven to give His life. How now shall we live? How now shall we give? Who else would we Treasure? God gives us money not only to meet our needs but also to bless us with an ongoing opportunity to, in a tangible way, Treasure Jesus above all other treasures.

**This is great! I’m all in for the Treasure Jesus Initiative. When can I give?!**

On November 13, everyone who calls North Roanoke home will have an opportunity to Treasure Jesus as we each make a faith commitment to

go all-in to strengthen our church, impact the Valley, and reach the world, all for the glory of King Jesus!

The Treasure Jesus Initiative is about all of us – every individual and every family making a two-year commitment (sample card begins on page 55) of ourselves and our resources as we respond to the matchless grace of God that we have received in Christ Jesus.

The First Big Give will be held on December 4. The church will provide a special envelope for this special offering. We look forward to starting strong and seeing what God will do!

## NOTES | SERMON 1

## NOTES | SERMON 2

## NOTES | SERMON 3

## NOTES | SERMON 4

## NORTH ROANOKE'S GENEROSITY FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS

### GENEROSITY REVIEW



## NORTH ROANOKE'S GENEROSITY GOAL FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

### BE CHRIST'S CHURCH | \$1,870,000

- ▶ \$155,000 | KIDS MIN. ▶ \$925,000 | FACILITATING MINISTRIES
- ▶ \$200,000 | DEBT PAYOFF ▶ \$345,000 | WORD & WORSHIP
- ▶ \$185,000 | STU. MIN. ▶ \$60,000 | ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

### IMPACT THE VALLEY | \$1,835,000

- ▶ \$100,000 | REACH ROANOKE INITIATIVES/SUPPORT
- ▶ \$10,000 | R. VALLEY BAPTIST ASSN.
- ▶ \$1,725,000 | KIDS/GYM FACILITIES ENHANCEMENTS

### REACH THE WORLD | \$295,000

- ▶ \$85,000 | IMB ▶ \$135,000 | SHORT-TERM MISSIONS/DR
- ▶ \$12,500 | SEMINARIES ▶ \$50,000 | VIRGINIA MISSIONS
- ▶ \$12,500 | N. AMERICAN MISSIONS

MY/OUR 2-YEAR TREASURE **JESUS** COMMITMENT  
December 2022 - December 2024

CALCULATE HERE

\$

What I/we normally give in 1 year  
(Regular Giving + Special Offerings)

+

\$

My/Our expanded ANNUAL generosity  
as we Treasure Jesus together

=

\$

x 2 yrs >

\$

+ a gift from stored  
resource/something I/we sell

>

\$



MY/OUR 2-YEAR TREASURE **JESUS** COMMITMENT\*

\$

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*The Treasure Jesus commitment does not constitute a legally-binding pledge. It is a prayerful commitment made in faith under the guidance of the Holy Spirit with the understanding that circumstances may change which may impact, either positively or negatively, one's ability to fulfill this commitment.



# TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART



*you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with **precious blood**, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the **blood of Christ** (1 Pet 1:18-19)*

Gifts Needed	2-Year Faith Commitment	Annual Gift of	Monthly Gift of	Gift Level Total
1	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$25,000	\$600,000
1	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$12,500	\$300,000
1	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$150,000
2	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$150,000
3	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$2,500	\$180,000
4	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$200,000
5	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$1,667	\$200,000
6	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$210,000
7	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$210,000
8	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$200,000
10	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$833	\$200,000
12	\$ 17,500	\$8,750	\$729	\$210,000
15	\$ 15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$225,000
20	\$ 12,500	\$6,250	\$521	\$250,000
22	\$ 10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$220,000
25	\$ 7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$187,500
28	\$ 5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$140,000
40	\$ 3,500	\$1,750	\$146	\$140,000
many	various	various	various	\$27,500
<b>Total Gift Goal</b>				<b>\$4,000,000</b>

If fully-funded, this would fund the annual budget over the next 2 years (estimated \$2.275M) and provide \$1.725M for phase 1 improvements.



***north roanoke***

BAPTIST CHURCH

northroanoke.org | 540.563.5113