

Laying Up Treasures

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Introduction: Can't Beat the System—This true story won First Place in last year's Criminal Lawyers Award contest.

- Charlotte, North Carolina.
- **A lawyer** purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against, among other things, fire.
- **He smoked** his cigars, then **filed a claim** against the insurance company.
- **In his claim**, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost 'in a series of small fires.' The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion.
- **The lawyer WON!** (Stay with me.)
- **Delivering the ruling**, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was obligated to pay the claim.
- **The insurance company paid \$15,000** to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'.
- **NOW FOR THE BEST PART...**
- **After the lawyer cashed the check**, the insurance company had him **arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!!**
- **With his own insurance claim and testimony** from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was **convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.**

Note: **When it comes to giving**, many people play games with God.

Note: **Why give offerings to God?**

Note: I want to show you the truths that have affected my life.

1. The Words of Jesus

Luke 6:37-38 ESV

37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

- Jesus presents this as an immovable law.

2. The Warning of Malachi—Robbing God (Broken Love Relationship)

Malachai 3:6-12 ESV

6 "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions.

9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.

10 Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts.

12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

- God doesn't need money
- Money is a test of heart commitment: "Where your treasuries, there will your heart be also."
- It's breaking a love relationship.

3. The Divine Principle & Promise

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 ESV

24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,

25 for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

26 For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

➤ This passage has affected my life

4. The Proverbs Speak this Truth

Proverbs 13:22 ESV

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

Proverbs 28:8 ESV

8 Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.

5. The Psalms Speak this Truth

Psalms 37:1-5 ESV

1 Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

2 For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Psalms 111:6 ESV

6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

6. Israel Bears Witness of this Truth

Psalms 105:43-45 ESV

43 So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

44 And he gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,

45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

7. Jesus Bears Witness of this Truth

Matthew 5:5 ESV 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

8. Egypt Bears Witness of this truth

Genesis 15:14 ESV

14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

Exodus 3:21-22 ESV

21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, 22 but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Psalms 105:37 ESV

37 Then he brought out Israel with silver and gold, and there was none among his tribes who stumbled.

9. Jeremiah Bears Witness of this truth

Jeremiah 40:4-5 ESV

4 Now, behold, I release you today from the chains on your hands. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you well, but if it seems wrong to you to come with me to Babylon, do not come. See, the whole land is before you; go wherever you think it good and right to go.

5 If you remain, then return to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed governor of the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people. Or go wherever you think it right to go." So the captain of the guard gave him an allowance of food and a present, and let him go.

➤ He had **two nations** (Israel and Babylon) to roam at will

10. The Great Exchange

➤ **(An End-Time Prophecy is Before Us)**

➤ **(Vast Rewards Await the Faithful)**

Daniel 7:18 ESV

18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.

Daniel 7:27 ESV

27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;

Revelation 3:20-22 ESV

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

11. The Words of Jesus**Luke 6:37-38 ESV**

37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

➤ Either Jesus is Exaggerating, or this is the wisest investment on earth.

Call to Action—Invest into Your Inheritance**Story: My Earthly Inheritance**

- **My Dad Built** a Large Landscape/Nursery Business
- **I worked hard**, tilling the nursery, planting, leading crews and so forth
- **Dad paid me**, but nothing compared to the coming inheritance
- **Today I am Blessed** far beyond what I was paid at the time.
- **Nearly destroyed my inheritance:**
 - Night of the car
 - 15 years old—No license.
 - Foggy . . . friends
 - Sudden stop sign.
 - A wreck could have ended everything for my parents, for me, for my sisters.