

Don't Be a Scrooge

Rags to Riches series

by Chris Famisaran

Welcome to this presentation from the Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are located in the greater Los Angeles area at 9820 Lakewood Boulevard in Downey, California. We would love to have your worship with us any Saturday you are in our area.

Let's pray. Father as we now dive into our new series, Rags and Riches, be with us lead and guide us in Jesus name, Amen.

As a child of the 1980s and partially early 1990s, I was blessed with a few cartoons that I still hold dear to this day. Tailspin, Chippendales, Rescue Rangers, Darkwing Duck. I am the terror that flaps in the night. And my favorite one of all time, dropped the 1987 on the Disney Channel. DuckTales. Huey, Dewey and Louie. Scrooge McDuck. Their uncle really was quite a scrooge. Amen. Interesting story. And it's funny, you know, you watch things as a child. And then I think it was around 2014 or 15. Lisa surprised me with the whole series on DVD. Oh, it was so amazing. And I rewatch it. It was so interesting to watch these cartoons that I loved as a child. And then from the perspective as an adult. And I realized what I thought was really funny just could not possibly take place in the real world. One of the defining characteristics of Scrooge McDuck was he loved what? Money. In fact, he had a vault, and it wasn't just a small vault, but a huge vault containing what? all of the gold, and in the back were stacks of bills. And what did Scrooge McDuck love to do in his vault? He loved to swim in his money. In fact, the opening scene to the very first episode, I had to rewatch it just to remind myself reacquaint myself. The very first episode, he goes in, and he dives off the balcony and into the money. Now in every normal real life situation, if that had really happened, what would have happened to Scrooge McDuck? He would have been hurt really, really badly. Because he can't swim through money. Amen. And all of a sudden, all Amazingly, he could be able to be in his swimsuit. And then when he

realizes you have to get somewhere, he could come up out of the money into his nice blue blazer jacket. It was Scrooge McDuck's life mission to acquire as much money as possible and to spend as little as possible. To remind ourselves how did Huey, Dewey and Louie come into the picture? Well, their uncle Donald Duck, had to go into the Navy. And there was nobody else to take care of these three little ducks. And so he gave them to Scrooge McDuck because he was the only trust worthy person he could count on. And Scrooge McDuck when he took these three little ducks. Did he enjoy it? Or was it more of a form of nuisance that he had to now take on these three little ducks? It was a nuisance. In fact, where did he put them, he put them in the ivory tower up and as far away as possible from him. He would send up meals with their Butler. Now eventually, in the first episode, you have the three guys who are trying to steal this ship, which contained a map. And eventually, long story short. The boys that got in trouble, they were grounded. And they realized we need to make this up. So they got the ship back. But in the process. Scrooge McDuck's vault was being robbed. So he gets up and he goes and he tries to make sure everything is okay. Obviously, it wasn't. There was a TV reporter there as well, somehow magically capturing this story of the robbers trying to steal. And after all was said and done, the reporter was asking Scrooge McDuck. It must be so awesome for you to be able to share this life with others and Scrooge McDuck had to ask himself. What do you mean? Well, there's gotta be somebody you love and he totally forgot his nephews. until he realized, no, I don't have anybody except for my nephew's. And all of a sudden he realizes, oh, there is something more to live for, more than just making money. So don't be like Scrooge McDuck and trying to make all the money in the world, and just trying to spend as little as possible. Because what did it bring Scrooge McDuck? He was happy for a while, but it did not fulfill him.

Let's go to Matthew chapter six, verses 19 through 21. On your handout, I left a couple of extra verses that you can go back to we're not going to be able to hit all of them. But I'd like to hit the primary one of Matthew six, verses 19 through 21. And for this month, we're going to be spending primarily our time in Matthew chapter six. So Matthew 6:19.

All right, we all there? All right. It says, verse 19. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. where moth vermin do

not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. I think a common question that many of us when we read this passage is well, what does it mean to store your treasures in heaven? Now, this \$20 Bill, okay, I'm not gonna give it away. I know some of you you're disappointed. But this \$20 bill by itself, is it inherently evil? No, it's a piece of paper that's green. Got a picture on it. Got a number on it. But what do we do, we place a value on it, okay. \$20! \$20 can get you a decent meal down the road. Okay, \$20 can do some good, can also do some bad too, can use \$20 to buy something that is not necessarily good for you. By itself money. It's not evil. But the value that we could place on it could lead us down a destructive path. When you look at Proverbs six, six through eight, it actually counsels people to actually save for the future. Proverbs 31:8-9, and also First Timothy 6:18 also commands us to also give to have those who are poor, to help those who are in need. And here, Jesus essentially, as Darrell Bock says, commands us the accumulation of massive amounts of treasure is a life goal.

So when we look at this, the Gospels, question that we have to ask is, what are your life goals? What is your ultimate life goal? Every decision that you are making, is going to help inform how you're going to either accomplish your life goal, or not. The financial decision that you make, the people you keep company with. And Jesus here is reminding that you can only have one ultimate goal. And it's not here to acquire as much stuff as possible here on earth. May your treasure be stored in heaven.

So when you think about your life goals, what is it maybe you're young, you try to think I want to take over the world. You want to make as much money as possible. For others. It might be, hey, I want to be able to get a new promotion so I can have more power. We're talking about this a little bit earlier in Sabbath School. But even getting authority and power can also be destructive. Amen. If you're given authority and power, is it easy to relinquish it back? Do we want to give it back? No, because usually what happens when you get power? Maybe you get special perks, special invitations. We don't want to let those things go. Growing up, did y'all play board games? What was your favorite board game? Chess? Anybody play life? This age old standard monopoly. Okay. How many of you at some point were banned from not being able to play Monopoly because maybe you were a little too passionate about it. I'm not speaking from experience. That didn't happen to

me. But I know friends who did. They loved monopoly because they wanted to win. I was competitive in other areas. But if I were to go to Target or Walmart and buy a, a monopoly game set, and it took all the money out, could I go down in and out down the street and go buy a burger? No, what do you think they would do? They would laugh. They would look at me like I was what? I was crazy. Right? And so yeah, it's, there's no point, they would probably laugh at me. I couldn't buy a new video game. So again, our earthly money here on Earth has no eternal value. And yet, the sad part is we try to buy eternal things with it. We try to hope and think that by having money, it can help us feel good. It can bring peace, it might for a while. Having money can be nice. But is it going to bring you satisfaction? Fulfillment? No, it's just a tool. Is having money bad? No. Because actually, if you even look through the, through the Bible, there are several characters like Abraham. He was a very wealthy individual people in the New Testament, who helped Jesus along the way, also very wealthy. So wealth can be used for good, but oftentimes, it can turn us down the wrong path.

So Matthew 6:19, clearly is reminding us that even everything that we have here on Earth, is going to what everything we own here on Earth, at some point, is going to be destroyed. Unless we preserve it in a little box, hope to open it later, maybe in 50 years, like they did in Parks and Rec. Right? So any material goods that we have here on heaven... I mean, here on Earth, they're not going to last. The car, you could spend \$125,000 on a Mercedes G Wagen. But if you leave it out in the sun, and 50 years from now, what do you think is going to look like? It's going to be rusted? Maybe the vermin are going to get inside it and try and eat all the wires up? And will it still be usable? More likely not. Right? The house that you are living in, and it's a great house and expensive house, my wife and I were driving through all the houses back here, and we were amazed that man, what a beautiful home. But yet some of the homes as nice as they were maybe five, even a couple of years ago, we noticed that one house, they'd moved out, and nothing had been done. Surprised the city hasn't cited them yet. But it was becoming overgrown. The paint was being dilapidated. And nothing was being done to manage and care for, eventually, it could fall apart.

So we assign value on material things here. In fact, even parents, when they pass away, they may want to leave a momento thinking that this is valuable. And it could be valuable. But is it valuable to you? Treasures on earth will only last so

long. But eventually they too will be destroyed. What does it mean to store your treasures in heaven? And I think one way somebody described it is to be able to use all that we have for the glory of God. Use all that we have to glorify God. So don't be so tied down to the things that we may be considered precious here on earth relationships, absolutely. But the material things that we can acquire. There were only a matter of time before they fall to the wayside. What's your life goal again? What do you want to accomplish in this life? Is your life goal making as much money as possible, accumulating power or building relationships using the resources that God has blessed you with the talents, the gifts and also the experience, to share the Good News and to glorify God. So the ultimate goal in life is to glorify God and not accumulate as much wealth as possible.

In the last Harry Potter book, *The Deathly Hallows*, there's an inscription on the tomb. And it's actually Matthew 6:21 of the headmaster of Hogwarts.

Dumbledore had these words written on his mother's and sisters tomb. And while Bible is not explicitly connected here it relates because Dumbledore's greed. Even though he tried to do the right thing, it was rooted in what? Power for those things of the earthly treasures, which ultimately led to what? His sister's death. And so, while his ultimate goal was to try to get power to try to get treasure, that was ultimately where his heart was, also. And even his sister's love could not help him, come back to the center. He was too consumed with what he wanted, that he didn't take a look up and see that the direction that he was heading was destructive.

And the hard part too, is it's easy for us to fall into that same trap. And maybe let's be honest, maybe we're all in that trap thinking that if I get all of this, everything will be fine. What leads us to this path? Sometimes it's just something as simple as we see something shiny, and we want it. How many of you would love to drive a Mercedes? Okay, some of you know? How many of you would love to drive a Formula One car? You don't want to go 300 miles down the road. Okay, wrong group! How many of you would love to go on a trip to Tuscany? And eat all the wonderful food. Right? Does that trip cheap? No! How many of you would love to take a yacht gone all the way across the Atlantic and tour Europe? That'd be wonderful. But it's also expensive. Now, am I also saying that we can't dream? No. But put it in the perspective of is this? Is everything that I do, Is it going to honor God? Or is it going to honor myself? I'm going to be about what I want. And

looking at life and the perspective of Jesus lenses, I think can help us for sure. Help us to minimize the potential dangerous mistakes we could make down the road. Amen. So the job you want to take? Yes, it can give you influence and it can give you power. But is it going to make a difference in your life and your family's life and also the people that you will also be working with? Because we're not just called to go into a job. In order to be successful in that job. You have to get along well, and inspire your co workers and those who are going to be under you. Amen. How many of you have ever worked for a difficult boss? Was it super uninspiring when they were acting? Not Wow. Okay. Try not to say this. Because what's a nice way of saying somebody who wasn't cool? didn't treat you right. There's a much more simpler word, but the kids are here. So. But if you work for somebody who's demanding and only thinks about profits, and doesn't think about relationships, sure, you could pad your boss's pockets and when they drive a nice Mercedes outside, but they don't give you a bonus, they don't treat you right. How do you think that makes you feel? So do I want to give everything or am I going to just do the minimum? If you truly want to inspire your staff, treat them well. And they'll work just as hard for you. Care for them. Being responsible with the things that God has given you, the car that you drive, while yes, you may have worked hard for it. That God helped you to get in that position to acquire the money to be able to afford that car. The house that you live in the fact you have a roof over your head is a blessing. Amen. It may be 600 square feet. Or 400 square feet, but you have a roof over your head. If there's food on the table, amen, if you have clean water, majority of this world does not have healthy, clean water. We do not have to deal with the same challenges that many across this world are dealing with. And I think how we can start to store up our treasures in heaven begins with the idea of gratitude of thankfulness. God thank you for providing a car. It may be an expensive bill, but at least I have it. Thank You, Lord, for the roof that's over my head. Thank you for the meal. It may be simple, but it's a meal. So may you be grateful. And the things that you do the decisions that you make, Number one, is it going to glorify and honor God? And is it going to help those around you? Because ultimately, what did God call us to do here on Earth? To love God well, to love our neighbors as ourselves.

So this week, to reflect what material items item or items do you have? You own? That you would have a hard time letting go. A phone. How many of you sleep your

with your phone right next to you? Don't answer that. I think a good portion of us because it's our alarm, right? My friends, it's important to be it's a privilege to have these things, but may not rule your life.

And finally, the challenge, I want you maybe as a individually or if you have family, write down how you can be a better steward of what God has blessed you with. And go out and be a blessing to others and do it. Right. So give you a little homework whether okay, if you're single, go and work out as an individual, but if you're married, if a partner you know, in life, or even with your kids, this afternoon Sabbath activity, how can we better be better stewards of what God has blessed us with? And go out and be a blessing to do?

Let's pray. Father in heaven, thank you, Lord. For the many blessings, even the things that we don't see, Lord, thank you for even the challenging times that we're experiencing. Because even there are even lessons in that faith, trust even surprises good. And God may we be a community that takes on the call to Lord glorify you and honor you in all of our all aspects of our life. May you help us to be the ambassadors you've called us to be. And to be faithful witnesses, Lord, created us, Lord in our hearts, the change that you want us to have in our lives to change and make our lives that much better. Where, Lord, we're not thinking about accumulating as much as possible here, but truly making a difference in people's lives, storing up treasures in heaven, and we faithfully honor you, leading guidance. Help us to change and grow. In Jesus name. Amen.

Grace and peace everybody.