

# What A Return!

Matthew 6

February 21, 2010

## Introduction and Video

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- If you are one of our guests, thank you for joining us for this Commitment weekend in our *Greater Investment... Greatest Return* series. Things will be a little different today but I trust that our focus on the Greatest Return will be a blessing to you!
- As we consider “What a Return!” this weekend, please be encouraged once more by the testimonies of this video.
- Video

## Cardboard Testimonies

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- The greatest return IS transformed lives. No other investment (stocks, real estate, education, possessions, etc.) offers a return as great as a life changed by the work of Jesus Christ.
- The reason God leads all believers to give to His work, to His church, is so that lives can be reached and changed.
- May God encourage and challenge you through these Northside “cardboard” testimonies of the Greatest Return.
- Cardboard Testimonies (with music/singing)

## Challenge

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- What a Return!
- As people are obedient and submit to the work of God, He brings about such a great return!
- These are testimonies of transformed lives – lives with a genuine heart, great faith and the right priority!
- You TOO can have such a transformed life – passionately in love with God, trusting Him through the good and the bad, and finding what really matters in life.
- Jesus describes this transformed life in Matthew 6

- A Transformed Life
  - Genuine Heart
    - Do you want to love God more? There is a way to have a genuine heart of love for God.
    - Matthew 6:19-24
    - 19 *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.*
    - 20 *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*
    - 21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
    - 22 *"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.*
    - 23 *But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*
    - 24 *"No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.*
    - ❖ Giving, making an investment in God's work, produces a genuine heart for God
  - Great Faith
    - Do you want to trust God more? There is a way to have a great faith in God
    - Matthew 6:25-32, 34
    - 25 *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?*
    - 26 *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*
    - 27 *Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?*
    - 28 *"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.*
    - 29 *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.*

30 *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*

31 *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*

32 *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

34 *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

❖ Giving, making an investment in God's work, produces a great faith in God

➤ Right Priority

➤ Do you want to find and fulfill your real purpose in life? There is a way to have the right priority of God

➤ Matthew 6:33

33 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

❖ Giving, making an investment in God's work, produces the right priority of God

• Transformed Lives

➤ Making disciples here – Ministry and Evangelism

➤ Making disciples abroad – Missions

❖ Giving not only changes our lives but it is used by God to change the lives of others and through Northside those lives are changed here (our community) and abroad (the world)

## Call to Commitment

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- What a Return! – We give and our lives are changed!
- What a Return! – We give and others' lives are changed!
- God is calling you to be invested in His work and to see the return of that investment through transformed lives.
- In just a minute, we are going to take up our commitments to God's work in and through Northside.
- Before we do, we want to spend some time in prayer – we want our giving to be out of God's direction and not out of our determination.

- Before we pray, I want to explain how you can, if the Lord leads, make your commitment

## Making a Commitment

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- Your commitment might be one of **Investment**
  - God wants all believers to regularly, generously and sacrificially give to Him and His work.
  - If you are responding to start being obedient and enjoying God's grace in giving...
    - ✓ ...then take an offering envelope (table or pew),
    - ✓ ...write your name and address on it
    - ✓ ...write a weekly amount you are going to start giving to God on the General Fund line,
    - ✓ ...and then start giving that amount.
    - ✓ We will take this envelope as your commitment to begin investing in God's work of making disciples through Northside Baptist Church.
- Your commitment might be one of **Greater Investment**
  - If you have prayed and God has spoken to you, and He is leading you to make a greater investment into His work...
    - ✓ ...then take a Greater Investment...Greatest Return card (table or ushers)
    - ✓ ...write your name and address on it,
    - ✓ ...and indicate what He has led you to give over and above your current giving (include only this new amount in the commitment).
  - We are asking these new commitments to begin on our Celebration/First Fruits Weekend (March 20-21).
    - ✓ For that day, you can use the First Fruits Offering envelope that was in your packet.
    - ✓ For giving your commitment regularly, use a regular offering envelope...
    - ✓ ...include your regular giving on the "General" line...
    - ✓ ...and include your *Greater Investment... Greatest Return* giving on the "Other" line.
- No **Investment**

- If God has spoken to you and is not asking you to give anything over and above your current giving...
  - ✓ ...please write your name and address on a Commitment card
  - ✓ ...and include a note – “God is not asking me to give a greater investment.”

## Time of Prayer

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- Please spend some time in prayer, listening to God and responding as He leads you.
- In a few moments, I will close our prayer time and we will receive our commitments