

**October 4, 2017**

In the Interim . . .

I lost my purse one time. It was an old, worn-out purse, but still I was concerned that someone might take the contents. The next day when I claimed it from where it had been turned in, everything was still in the purse, just as I had left it. I was not sure whether to be relieved or offended.

Jesus said be careful where you put what is important to you, because where you put your treasures, that is where your heart is going to be. (Matthew 6:19-21)

Pickpockets say they can tell in which pocket you carry your money simply by observing you. Most of us do not realize how much we touch or check the pocket where we have our money. But an astute pickpocket knows how to watch to know exactly where to go to get it. Wherever your treasure is, that is where your attention goes. That is what Jesus is saying.

A pastor I know went to get a bank loan for a car. He was asked to list his debts and financial obligations. On the list he included his pledge to his church. "You need to know we do not count that," the loan officer said. "You need to know that I do," the pastor responded. Not long after that, the loan officer started to attend the church where the pastor served. She ended up joining and becoming a leader there.

The question for us to consider this Stewardship season is not: "Where do we want our treasures to be?" Rather, it is: "Where do we want our hearts to be?"

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