

Frugality: The wise, intentional stewardship of time, money, and resources that avoid waste and extravagance while prioritizing generosity and eternal values.

Frugality is not a word you will find in your Bible, but its meaning is throughout Jesus' walk on earth. The verse in Luke 12:33 is one of them. Prior to this verse, Jesus shares the parable of the rich man that had an abundant crop and was planning on building many extra barns to store it. That night he died.

Jesus then tells us not to worry about tomorrow; God will take care of you as He does with the lilies of the field and the birds in the sky. He continues with ... "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide PURSES for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys."

I'm pretty sure when Jesus was talking about "PURSES", he wasn't referring to a large, oversized tote bag made of thick full-grain leather with reinforced stitching that will last for decades...like I used to carry. In it I had everything imaginable; I was ready for that bridal shower that you got points for if you had it in your purse! Yet, I had no real treasures within it.

I believe Jesus is talking about our heart and the treasures we store within it; when you shared lunch with a new person in church or gave monies to the missionary that visited. The joy you have teaching the littles in Sunday School and jumping in to help with a funeral dinner. These are real treasures stored not only in your heart, but in heaven, too, where no thief or moth or rust will ever be able to take or destroy it.

But back to frugality, how does that work with our hearts and treasures? By using the gifts God gave each of us, the skills and talent he provided so that we would have an income to support our family. By all means, our monies are His. All He asks of us is to be good stewards of his blessings.

I do believe he wants us to put some back for that "rainy day", just as Joseph stored up grain for seven years while in Egypt. He had a plan then, and he has a plan for you today. But how does he feel when we squander our provisions on useless material things? I believe Jesus was telling us in this scripture that our valuables, our treasures kept within our heart will be safe with our Father forever. Don't fear for tomorrow. Trust God with it all.

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