



Below are 30 examples from the book of Matthew on how to live toward heaven.

1. The sermon on the mount (Mt. 5:1-14) is about pursuing eternal rewards:
  - The poor are blessed in the spirit realm—they get the kingdom of heaven
  - Those who mourn will be comforted
  - The gentle will inherit the earth
  - Those who hunger for righteousness and justice will be satisfied
  - Those who give mercy will get it back
  - The pure in heart will see God as the reward for their purity
  - The peacemakers will be recognized as sons of God
  - The persecuted will get the kingdom of heaven as their reward
  - Those falsely accused because of Christ will get a great reward in heaven
2. Whoever is godly and teaches others to be will be great in heaven. (5:19)
3. If *anything* in your life is keeping you from heaven, rip it out! (5:29)
4. If you only love people who love you back, what's different about that? (5:46)
5. If you befriend only your friends, even the world does that. (5:47)
6. If you act religious to get recognition, don't expect any more reward. (6:1)
7. Give gifts secretly instead of publicly, and God will reward you in heaven. (6:2-4)
8. When you practice self-denial, don't flaunt it—or that's all the reward you'll get. Do it secretly for a heavenly reward. (6:16-18)
9. Don't accumulate stuff on earth—add to your bank account in heaven. (6:20)
10. Don't worry about your basic needs (food, clothing and shelter)—God is aware you need them. Seek the Kingdom and that stuff will fall into place. (6:30-32)
11. Grasp onto life and lose it; but let go of it for Jesus' sake and find it. (10:39)
12. Serve the person on the platform and you'll get the same reward. (10:41)
13. Even acts of service as small as giving a child a drink will be rewarded. (10:42)
14. Stand up for Christ before people and He'll stand up for you before God. (10:32)
15. To follow Christ, you must die to self and walk the road of suffering... Don't gain everything the world offers but lose your soul in the process. (16:25-26)
16. If you want treasure in heaven, give away your possessions and follow me. (19:21)
17. If you've left home, family or business to follow Jesus, you'll get back much more in the life to come. (19:29)
18. The greatest in heaven will be everyone's servant on earth. (23:5-11)
19. If you try to look great, you'll be humbled; greatness comes to the humble. (23:12)
20. If you faithfully steward what you've been given, the master will put you in charge of all His possessions in heaven. (24:45-51)
21. Work hard, take risks and make the most of your life for God, and you'll have a high position in heaven. (25:14-30)
22. How you treat the nobodies in your life is how you're treating Jesus. (25:31-46)



# Structuring Life for External Rewards



In the book of Matthew, Jesus gives many examples of what it can look like to structure your life for eternal rewards. Some involve letting go of temporal things for the eternal; some push us to go beyond what the world does to be like God, and some challenge us to forgo acclaim in the here and now to gain honor from God. Thirty of these principles are listed on the previous pages. Use the three reflection questions below to help you think about how to apply them in your life.

1. Which of these examples most challenge me today? What one could I implement in a circumstance or decision I face right now?
2. Which of these messages have I been drawn to throughout my life, and most desire that people see in me? What one step could I take to more compellingly convey this message through my life?
3. Which of these do I feel God calling me to begin doing in secret, just for Him?

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