

Sermon on the Mount – Treasures

If your house was on fire, what do you grab first?

1 Timothy 6:6-10 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Contentment is a fruit in the life of a believer.
- We cannot control what we have, and what we do have will go away with this life.
- Pursuing wealth is a snare. It is a trap that brings temptation and leads to ungodly behaviors.
- Love of money results in evil

But not money. Love of money. And not being rich. Pursuing riches.

Here is what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount:

The Command:

Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- To start with – what is treasure?
 - Treasure = Thesaurus = wealth.
 - Jesus is speaking about our money. Or all assets.

- Jesus begins with a command. A dual command. One in the negative and one in the positive.
- Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth.
- Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven
- What He is really asking is this:
 - Do we want the temporary, or the eternal?
 - What are our priorities? Our true desires?

First, the negative:

- Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth – This is not a command to not save.
- He is saying don't make the main point of your life material possessions.
- Your money cannot be your treasure.
- That becomes idolatry.
- Nothing here will last. It will all be destroyed.
- We mostly work for our money. And we need money to live (we'll get to that).
 - Jesus is not against work, but is against building your life around the worthless.
 - **James 1:11** For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.
- We are not wired for the temporary. We are wired for the eternal.

Then the positive:

- Lay up treasure in Heaven
- Why? 2 reasons:
 - Because treasures in heaven are eternal.
 - They last. Have real meaning. Eternity is long.
 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
 - Your life follows your values.
 - Values form your priorities.
 - Priorities determine your decisions.
 - Decisions determine your future.

Jesus is telling us to consider things of eternal nature more than things of temporary nature.

- **Colossians 3:1-2** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
- **2 Corinthians 4:18** while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.
- **Matthew 16:26-27** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.
- **John 6:27** Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.

The Warning:

Matthew 6:22-23 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

- The eye is the lamp of the body – What we see. What do we behold. Is it the glory of God? The applause of men? Your followers on SM?, your stuff? Your experiences?
- Our focus guides our path.
 - What lamp are we supposed to use?
 - **Psalms 119:105** Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- If we are looking at the eternal, at Jesus, at the glory of God – you will be full of light.
- If your eye is bad – If you are looking at anything other than the light of God – you are filled with darkness.

- If the light is darkness – How great is that darkness
 - This is about saved people. People with light in them
 - But they have shut out the light so it is darkness.
 - How great is that darkness – It's like having stared at a light then turning all the lights off. It is even darker.
 - Spiritually, these people know the truth. They are saved, yet they willingly pull the blinds down and choose to walk in darkness.
- Jesus is warning us about intentionally shutting out our spiritual nature in order to pursue the lusts of our flesh.

The warning continues:

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- Mammon = wealth personified, or the god of riches.
- Jesus is saying that loving money is idolatry. Spiritual adultery.
- You are to serve God and use money. Not serve money and use God
- Rich young ruler – served money. Not God.
- If our hearts are on money and riches, then we do not have our minds set on God or the things of God.
- The world and God are at odds with each other:
 - **1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - We can even wrap our love for the world in a Spiritual discipline:
 - **James 4:3-4** You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Basically this is what Jesus is saying:

- Are you more interested in the things of this world, or the things of God?
- And I can tell you which one it is by simply following the money.
- Because where you treasure is, there your heart is also.

What are you doing to invest in your eternity?

Throne of Christ judgement

- Not the Great White Throne of Judgement. The Bema Seat of Christ.
- We will not be judged for our sin, but for our works.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- Good = Agathos = good; of benefit
- Bad = kakos = Worthless

We had a command and a warning. Does Jesus leave us with that?

How can we NOT pursue money if we need to eat, pay our bills, live in a home, etc...

The Empowerment

The Bible never tells us to do something without providing the means by which to do it.

(summarize – Do not read)

Matthew 6:25-34 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his

stature? ²⁸ “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith? ³¹ **“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.**

- Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on
 - This is setting your mind on things of this world.
- For after all these things the Gentiles seek.
 - The unsaved do this.
 - Remember – the eye is the lamp of the body. We have light!
- Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
 - God loves you. He will provide for you.
- But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
 - Seek first His Kingdom. Serve God first. Have your priorities right.
 - He will take care of you.

This is very true. I have experienced this firsthand. And I know many others who have experienced this firsthand.

- If you have never fully trusted God to provide for you, this is a leap of faith.
- Take it. It’s worth it. I promise you. And I can promise that, because God promised that.

Your treasure isn't found in what you say you value — it's found by tracing where your money, time, and attention actually go. That trail reveals more than we probably care to admit.

Salvation changes you. Usually in this order: doctrine, then morals, then priorities.