

YOUR TREASURE ... YOUR HEART

MATTHEW 6:19-24

Text: Matthew 6:21

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²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Introduction:

In verses 1-18 of Matthew 6 it's as if we have been in the sanctuary of the Lord communing with Him who "seeth in secret." Beginning in verse 19, we leave the safety and security of communion with the Lord, and immediately find ourselves combating the temptations and trials of the world. It is no mistake that the order is first communion then combat. The amount of time we are willing to spend in secret with the Lord will determine the amount of victory we enjoy over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

We are living today in what is perhaps the most materialistic society that has ever existed.

So many today are blinded by wealth. They think if they could have a new car, new truck, new house then that would make them happy.

A few years ago there was a poll taken and those who were polled were asked if they would be willing to do

certain things for ten million dollars. Here were some of the results:

- Would abandon their entire family – 25% said they would
- Would abandon their church – 25% said they would
- Would give up their American citizenship – 16% said they would
- Would withhold testimony and let a murderer go free – 10% said they would
- Would kill a stranger – 7% said they would
- Would put their children up for adoption – 3% said they would

Today more than ever, Christians need to heed these final words of Matthew 6. It seems that when we are materially prosperous we are most in danger of spiritual poverty.

1. THE COMMAND

A. The Negative

Matthew 6:19

¹⁹Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Generally speaking, when we speak of "treasure" we tend to limit the term to money. But the Lord's use of the word "treasure" is intended to mean anything that is of value to man and that is perishable or can be lost in one way or the other (houses, lands, fame, position, power, clothes, cars, etc.)

While we need to understand clearly what is condemned in this verse, we also need to know what is not condemned. In the words of verse 19, the Lord is not condemning hard work which results in man's provision for both himself and his family.

Something else that the Lord is not condemning is the possession of goods and riches, provided they are acquired honestly and used rightly.

What is being condemned?

- Excessiveness

When the Lord speaks of laying up treasures for ourselves on earth, He is addressing the sin of excessively pursuing worldly wealth and material possessions.

1 Timothy 6:8-10

⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Covetousness

Colossians 3:5

⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

In this verse Christ condemns the act of putting our trust and confidence in worldly things that we have treasured up, which is nothing less than idolatry.

Job 31:24-28

²⁴ If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, *Thou art* my confidence; ²⁵ If I rejoiced because my wealth *was* great, and because mine hand had gotten much; ²⁶ If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking *in* brightness; ²⁷ And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand: ²⁸ This also *were* an iniquity *to be punished* by the judge: for I should have denied the God *that is* above.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

¹⁰ He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this *is* also vanity.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- Selfishness

Selfishly laying up treasure for ourselves without any intention of using the same for the support of the gospel or the praise of God is condemned by the Lord's words in this verse.

Ezekiel 28:4-5

⁴ With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: ⁵ By thy great wisdom *and* by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches:

B. Positive

Matthew 6:20

²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Instead of making the things of this earth a priority and excessively pursuing those things, we would do well to pursue things that are of eternal value.

2 Corinthians 4:18

¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

Instead of putting confidence in the material things we possess, our trust and confidence is to be in God.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; ¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; ¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

The best way to "lay up ... treasures in heaven" is to invest in the Lord's work.

1 Chronicles 29:3

³ Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, *which* I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

1 Chronicles 29:11-14

¹¹ Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. ¹² Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all. ¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. ¹⁴ But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things *come* of

thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

1 Chronicles 29:16-17

¹⁶O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name *cometh* of thine hand, and *is* all thine own. ¹⁷I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

The sad thing about all of the excessive, covetous, selfish behavior is that it comes as the result of pursuing things that will never satisfy in the first place. All of our earthly possessions are things that possess a certain element of decay. They will all eventually perish. The only things that will last will be the rewards we gain by our godly living and heavenly pursuits.

C. Conclusively

Matthew 6:21

²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The Lord concludes the whole matter by saying that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. We think about our treasures, we are drawn toward our treasures, we fret about our treasures, and we measure other things (and other people) by our treasures.

Our whole lives will drift relentlessly toward the spot where our treasures are stored because our hearts will take us there.

Colossians 3:1-2

¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

2. THE COMPARISON

A. Vision that is Correct (vs. 22)

Matthew 6:22

²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

The word "light" when used in the Bible generally speaks of that which is good, that which is godly and righteous. In the sense in which it is used here, it speaks of our conduct in regards to "treasure."

The word "single" is used to mean singleness of purpose, focused, clear.

The correct vision, according to the teaching of our Lord, is that which is clearly focused on eternal things. If our vision is focused on one single purpose, that being the pursuit of heavenly things, our whole body will be full of light. That is, our conduct will be good, godly, and righteous.

B. Vision the is Corrupt (vs. 23)

Matthew 6:23

²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

The "evil" eye is one that is not clearly focused on one single purpose.

The Lord is speaking here of what we might call "double vision." A person who possesses double vision is not very stable. Spiritual double vision would be having one eye fixed on heaven and another fixed on earth.

That person who thinks they can pursue the things of this world and those of heaven with an equal amount of passion is only fooling themselves.

3. THE CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the whole matter is "No man can serve two masters."

James 4:4

⁴ Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

A. A Choice to Be Made

Because it is impossible to have two masters, a choice must be made as to who we are going to serve. Are we going to serve God or the world?

One or the other has to be demoted to a lower position. One has to be relegated to a secondary position in our life. The pursuit of one or the other has to become a lower priority than the other.

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

1 Kings 18:21

²¹ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

B. A Cost to Be Paid

Making a choice between God and the world will prove to be costly.

Should we choose to pursue the eternal things of God, we will have less than what we could have of the things of the world. We will be called upon to make sacrifices in terms of temporal pleasures and possessions.

Should we choose to pursue the temporal things of the world, we will have less than what we could have had of that which is eternal.

The decision that we are called upon to make every day of our life is which is the greater loss, the temporal things of earth or the eternal things of Heaven?

Close:

I ask you to honestly ask yourself: where is your heart? Is it set on the things of earth, or the things of heaven? Are your money and possessions blinding you? Is Jesus truly your Master? Nobody else can answer these questions for you—you must answer them.