

Treasuring What Is Truly Treasure Matthew 6:19-24

I. Treasure is the thing that we think will fill us up and satisfy us.

- A. We are motivated to pursue that thing because it will be so good!
 - 1. We value our treasure more than anything else.
 - (a) We do so because of what we believe it will do for us.
 - (b) We believe that our treasure will make us happy.
 - (c) It will increase the “good life” and diminish the hard stuff.
 - (d) It will bring us comfort and joy.
- B. What are you tempted to treasure?
 - 1. Is it material things and the comfort they bring you?
 - 2. Is it your image and how people perceive you?
 - 3. Is it the success of your children in school, sports, or career?
 - 4. Perhaps it is all of these things, or something else altogether.
- C. Jesus says, “Don’t store up treasures for yourselves on earth.”
 - 1. Why? Because they are temporary (moth and rust destroy).
 - 2. Because they are not secure (thieves break in and steal).
 - 3. Because they really aren’t treasure (we’ll get back to this).
 - 4. Therefore, it is not wise to store up earthly treasures.
- D. Instead, “store up treasures in heaven.”
 - 1. They are eternal.
 - 2. They are secure.
 - 3. They really are treasure.
- E. What you treasure has a huge impact on your heart.
 - 1. “Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.”
 - 2. The heart in Scripture is the center of your person.
 - (a) We also love with our hearts.
 - 3. Your heart will be connected to and committed to where your treasure is.
 - (a) So, your treasure will be at the center of your life.
 - (b) It will capture your attention, your energy, your love.
 - 4. We have to be careful not to place too much value on the things of this world. They are not ultimate things.
 - 5. We want to treasure God, his goodness, presence, grace and love.
- F. God provides what we need and gives us good things to enjoy.
 - 1. We need to treasure God and use things/money with gratitude to the Provider.
 - 2. Be careful not to use God and treasure the provision.
 - (a) We do this when we treat God like the delivery system for the things we really treasure.
 - (b) We always need to remember that life (zoe) is found in God alone. He is the true and lasting treasure.

II. We need to have good eyes to treasure the things that really matter (Matthew 6:22-23).

- A. Jesus is not speaking about our physical eyes (Eph.1:17-18).

- 1. I keep asking...that God may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”
- 2. “that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...”
- 3. Paul is not referring to physical sight, but spiritual perception.
 - (a) Jesus is talking about the “eyes of the heart,” too.
- B. If your spiritual perception (understanding, insight) is good, then your “whole body is full of light.”
 - 1. You are seeing clearly, accurately.
 - (a) God is shining his light (revelation) in you.
- C. “But if your eyes are bad...”
 - 1. Two ways this can be true.
 - (a) You’re not a Christian yet (John 3:3).
 - (b) You’re a Christian but your perception is off.
 - 1. You are not seeing reality accurately.
 - 2. You are valuing the wrong things
 - 2. Your eyes are bad, so your body is full of darkness.
 - (a) You are treasuring things that aren’t really treasure.
 - (b) You are not treasuring the real treasure.
 - 3. The challenge is that you don’t know when your perception is off.
 - (a) At least physically blind people know they’re blind.
 - (b) “If the light within you is darkness how great is that darkness.”
 - (c) You think you have light but you’re in the dark.
 - (d) What you think is true is not. How great is that darkness!

III. “You can’t serve both God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)

- A. To understand this verse, we need to understand “despise.”
 - 1. In our culture we use “despise” as a synonym for “hate.”
 - (a) That’s not what it means here.
 - 2. Greek: kataphroneo: to disesteem; to think slightly of.
 - (a) It means you don’t see something to be significant.
 - (b) To not place a high value on something.
- B. The order throughout the verse is “God and money.”
 - 1. No one can serve two masters.
 - (a) Either he will hate God and love money, or he will be devoted to God and not give much significance to money. You cannot serve both God and money (paraphrase).
 - 2. To the degree that we love money, we are failing to love God (I John 2:15).
 - (a) The word for love here is agape, unconditional love.
 - (b) That is a committed all-in sort of love
 - (c) Loving money is idolatry, a form of hatred toward God.
- C. What do we do? Perhaps we need to repent.
 - 1. We need to ask God to help us to see clearly, with his values.
 - 2. We need to “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (worship).