

The Way

What do you treasure?

Matthew 6:19-25

March 28, 2021

Grace Bible Church

Introduction: How many of us secretly or not so secretly try to keep one foot with Christ and the other with the _____ . We love the trappings of faith, but we don't want to give God too much authority in our lives. We attend church as a social event because that is where our friends are, but we don't seek nor find God in our worship.

- The passage before us is a _____ to be obeyed, not a suggestion to be considered.
- The passage before was spoken to a group of people who were mostly **poor**. Rodney Stark wrote about the city of Antioch of Paul's time:
This sermon was preached to people who saw material blessings as a sign of God's _____. The poor as well as the rich can be _____ and covetous as this passage can demonstrate. We can be ruled by wealth or the desire for wealth. In our consumer driven culture some poverty is the result of the foolish pursuit of money or its trappings.
- This passage cannot be understood without a Biblical account of the _____.
 - The heart is who _____. "These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their heart isn't in it." (Matthew 15:8, The Message)
 - The heart is often revealed by what we say in our _____ moments. "But what comes out of the mouth gets its start in the heart." (Matthew 15:18, The Message)
 - The heart is the place where we think, feel and make decisions. "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." (Proverbs 4:23, ESV)
Two questions: These are disclosed principally in two ways: 'What do we really value?' and 'What do we worry about?' The second question reveals the answer to the first!
- Overview of the passage: This is a passage about _____. It has applications beyond money. It begins by talking about treasures and ends by talking about mammon, the Carthaginian (modern Libya) god of money
- In vs 1-18 we are instructed in our private lives. Don't be like the Pharisees!
- In vs 19-34 we are instructed in our public business. Don't be like the Gentiles
 - Two _____ of the heart (6:19-21)
 - Two _____ of the heart (6:22-23)
 - Two _____ of the heart: God and money (6:24)

Key thought: We must be **heavenly minded** if we are to be earthly good. Make no mistake about it Jesus is telling to be heavenly minded. Why does Jesus tell us to lay up treasures in heaven and how do we do that?

- I. Because our hearts will be _____ our treasure lies.
 - A. Money can keep us from eternal life. (Matthew 19:22-24)
 - B. Money can keep from bearing fruit. (Matthew 13:20-22)
 - C. Money can keep lead us into temptation and destruction. (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
 - D. Money can tempt us to follow the wrong examples: (Psalm 49:16-20)
 - E. Material wealth is only temporary. Wealth in the ANE was measured in terms of a house that can be destroyed, a garment that can be eaten by moths, precious metals that can rust or be stolen.
 - F. Why is money such a powerful influence?
 1. Security- We want to know that we are taken care of, so what brings us the greatest security in life and soul is to have material security
 2. Personal worth, esteem and value- Material possessions and wealth often indicate that people are successful in what they have done with their lives. We feel good about ourselves if we dress, drive, dine and decorate well.
 3. Power- with wealth and material success, we believe that we have and get and be what we want. Wealth give us control over our own fate and over other people.
 4. Independence- With wealth I can my own "god" and not rely on anyone else,
 5. Pleasure- With wealth we can indulge our every fantasy, whether it is the exotic vacation, the luxurious wedding, the finest dining or the most decadent home.
- II. Because our treasure will _____. "“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” (Matthew 13:45-46, ESV) The imagery here is of the eye being like windows in a house, will they let in light or darkness? The word bad here connotes moral evil. The "evil eye" in the ancient world is one that enviously covets what belongs to another; it is a greedy

eye, When the focus of the eye focuses on something of value it becomes the conduit that fills the heart with what has been focused upon.

- A. An OT example of the power of vision. “And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”” (Joshua 7:20–21, ESV)
- B. A NT example of the power of vision. “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”” (Matthew 4:8–9, ESV)
- C. A warning: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. (1 John 2:15–17)
 - 1. When we treasure the eternal we are encouraged us to endure great struggle. (2 Corinthians 4:16–18)
 - a) What were these “light and momentary afflictions? (2 Corinthians 11:23–26)
- D. What we treasure encourages us to choose Christ in the midst of temptation. (Hebrews 11:25–27)
- E. As our culture moves further away from Christian influences we will need to develop a “theology of being fired.” John Stonestreet

III. Because we have to _____.

- A. Will your master be reputation or Christ? (Acts 5:1–11)
- B. What you pursue will rule you? “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (1 Timothy 6:9–10, ESV)
 - 1. Some use God to get money: imagining that godliness is a means of gain.” (1 Timothy 6:5, ESV)
 - 2. Some will turn away from God to gain money. They will compromise themselves as turn away from Christ
- C. In choosing a master beware of unbiblical extremes.
 - 1. Deny all material concerns to the point of asceticism. God cared deeply about the physical well being of people. Jesus was not an ascetic.
 - 2. Saving is a lack of faith. God’s normal pattern is for people to be responsible stewards of their resources. As we know a significant portion of God’s law regulated life so that there would be abundant provision to supply offerings and sacrifices and take care of the poor.(Proverbs 6:6–8)
 - 3. Engaging in business and commerce is worldly and secular- the first command in Scripture is to work. In Acts 2/4 people sold houses and possessions so that they would have to give, “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.” (Ephesians 4:28, ESV)
 - 4. All wealthy people have bowed their knees to mammon and cannot be Jesus disciples. Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy man. God saved Zacheus in Luke 19 Abraham and Job were wealthy. (Luke 8:1–3)

Conclusion: How do you lay up treasure in heaven? “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.” (1 Timothy 6:17–19, ESV)

- To take care of one’s family and not be a burden to others. “and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.” (1 Thessalonians 4:11–13, ESV) “. (1 Timothy 5:8)
- To help those in need especially those of the household of faith. “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17, ESV) (Acts 11:27–30) (Romans 15:25–27)
- To encourage and support the spread of the gospel. “Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:14–19, ESV)