

TREASURE – MT. 6:19-34

JESUS CHANGES OUR PRIORITIES

From time to time, I'm given a task I'm supposed to finish, but I don't always get them done as quickly as I should.

- Tricia knows that I, like many of us, can easily get sidetracked...
- Maybe we are in a store together, and she asked me to go get an item from the other side of the store. Before I knew it, she was calling me...
- "Did you get distracted by shining things?"

Life is full of "shining things"—life is full of distractions...things that seem important or appealing in the moment, but aren't really what God wants for us.

- In Matthew 6:19-34, Jesus warns us not to get caught up chasing after earthly treasures or worrying about our needs. Instead, He says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," promising that God will take care of the rest.
- Just like I need to tune out the distractions to finish my tasks, Jesus calls us to focus on Him, trusting that when we do, everything else falls into place.

We continue our series through the Gospel of Matthew, we will see what it looks like the be Kingdom Citizens particularly through Jesus's Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-7

Last week, we talked about Jesus' definition and description of True Righteous – Jesus said...

Matthew 5:20 - For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (contrast to Religious Leaders)

True Righteousness is a gift of God that flows from a heart filled with faith and repentance

- Jesus fulfilled all righteousness – Offers True Righteousness as a gift to those who repent and believe!
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

True Righteousness is Expressed from the Heart Transformation, not just behavior Modification

- It's not about a set of do's and don't; rights and wrongs; rules and regulations
- Jesus explains that true righteousness is not just about what we do outwardly, but about who we are inwardly—it is an authentic, transformed heart that loves, forgives, and lives in integrity, mirroring God's perfect love.

Jesus continue to explain that True Righteousness is Expressed through

- **the way we give, pray, and fast**
- **Through the way we invest in Eternity**
- **Through the way we Trust the Father**
- **These are evidence of true Righteousness; Expressions, if you will, of True Righteousness; not ways in which a person attains true righteousness...Remember, it is a Gift!**

True Righteousness is Expressed in our

Sincerity in Service

In the first 18 verse of Matthew 6, Jesus declares that true righteousness is expressed in the way disciples give, pray and fast.

- We won't read every verse (we have studied this before)
- I want you to notice a pattern...

Matthew 6:1 - "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.

Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matthew 6:5 - "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Matthew 6:16 - "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Did you see the pattern – did you see what all these things have in common?

The Disciplines of Giving, Praying, and Fasting are important disciplines (Rhythms)

- Jesus did not **condemn** these practices, he **cautioned** his followers to make sure our hearts are right when we practice them...
- **Don't give to be seen by men**.
- **Don't pray in such a way that it draws attention to you**.
- **Don't mope around so people will know you are fasting...**

In the manner in which we can serve sincerely ... write these down...

- **Matthew 6:1-4** - Give Generously without show – don't sound the trumpet!
- **Matthew 6:5-15** - Pray Sincerely, avoid empty repetition
- **Matthew 6:16-18** - Fast Humbly, seek God not human praise

If our motives is to serve God in sincerity, then our gifts, our prayer, even our fasting will be done **without calling attention** to ourselves; As a result God will be glorified, others will be helped, and we will be transformed into the image of Jesus!

Does that mean that every time we give, every time we pray, every time we fast, must be done in secret?

- No – You can find good examples of each of these in other parts of Scripture –
- It's not about the means of giving, praying, or fasting, it's about the motive... "...to be seen by men..."
- They have their reward!

True Righteousness is not only expressed in **Sincerity in Service**

The Singularity in Storing

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.

Jesus is saying that True Righteousness is expressed in the right attitude toward wealth and is a mark of true spirituality!

Nowhere did Jesus magnify poverty or criticize the legitimate getting of wealth.

- God made all things, including food, clothing, and precious metals. God has declared that all things He has made are good (Gen. 1:31).
- God knows that we need certain things in order to live (Matt. 6:32). In fact, He has given us "richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17).
- ***It is not wrong to possess things, but it is wrong for things to possess us.***
- The sin of idolatry is as dangerous as the sin of hypocrisy!
- There are many warnings in the Bible against covetousness (Ex. 20:17; Ps. 119:36; Mark 7:22; Luke 12:15ff.; Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5).
- Jesus warned against the sin of living for the things of this life. He pointed out the sad consequences of covetousness and idolatry. (Wiersbe, *Be Loyal: Matthew*, p. 60-61)

Four Consequences of Covetousness & Idolatry

Enslavement – Heart, Mind, Will:

We become shackled by material things

Materialism enslaves the Heart – Mt. 6:19-21

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.

Luke 12:15 - ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Ecclesiastes 5:10 - He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.

Materialism enslaves the Mind – Mt. 6:22-23

Matthew 6:22-23 - ²² "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!

- God's Word often uses the eye to represent the attitudes of the mind
- If the eye is out of focus, the body cannot function properly – if you are not seeing well, the results are unsteady movements.
- James 1:8 – ...a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Materialism enslaves the Will – Mt. 6:24

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.

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.

Jesus Warned of another consequence of Covetousness & Idolatry

Depreciation

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.

- How many times have we bought that shiny new ... whatever-fill in the blank ... car, boat, fishing rod, pair of shoes, toy ... and before you know it it's old and rusty and we want something else new!

Loss of Testimony – Matthew 6:31-32

Matthew 6:31-32 - "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.

- To worry about material things is to love like the Ungodly!
- We'll come back to this point in just a minute, but for now...If we put God's will and God's righteousness first in our lives, He will take care of everything else.

Loss of Joy – Mathew 6:34

Matthew 6:34 - Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

One of our Values at TFBC is The Gospel: Share

The antidote for Covetousness and Idolatry is to Invest in Eternity

Matthew 6:20-21 – ²⁰but 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.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

How do we lay up treasure in Heaven?

We use our Time, Talent, and Treasure to Build God's Kingdom

If you a Guest today, we don't want anything from you – This principle applies whether you are a member of our church or not.

If you are a church member, let me explain my apprehension to talk about giving...

At the December Family Meeting, Cameron said something about it – Bad Salesmen has skinny kids

- I fear some may feel I have ulterior motives – We have all seen the TV preachers with big houses, fancy cars, luxurious everything...This has caused "Irreparable (**i-REP-uh-bul DAM-ij**) damage"
- I have let that uneasiness cause hesitation...

We are on a mission to bring Hope and Renewal to Every Person and Every Place

- Your Giving Funds Ministry & Fuels the Mission
- We are praying for an 25% increase in Give Time!
 - We finished 2025 with around \$500,000 in General Fund Giving (\$ 200,000 Above & Beyond... this year!)

- We have 160 Households –
 - 78 of which gave something to the General Fund.
 - 43 gave something to Above and Beyond.
 - Some people...I do not know names...who call TFBC home gave little or nothing in 2025
- Everyone can give something –
- The story of the Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41–44; Luke 21:1–4) shows Jesus observing people giving offerings at the temple. While many wealthy people gave large amounts, a poor widow quietly put in two small coins—all she had to live on. Jesus commends her, saying she gave more than all the others because she gave out of her poverty, trusting God fully, while the rich gave only from their surplus.
- **Sermon Point:**
God values the heart and sacrifice behind our giving more than the amount. The widow's small gift was great in God's eyes because it represented trust, faith, and wholehearted devotion.

True Righteousness is not only expressed in
Sincerity in Service, and **Singularity in Storing**, but also in
Serenity in Security

Peace in knowing God will take care of you!

Matthew 6:31-32 - ³¹"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Matthew 6:33 - ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Jesus gives examples of the Birds – God Feeds them

Jesus gives example of the Flowers – God Clothes them

Are you not of more value than they!

Matthew 6:30 - ³⁰Now 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?

- This is classic argument from lesser to great – If God takes care of the birds/flowers, how much more will He take care of you!
- Many parents would go to great lengths to feed or care for their children — even more than for a pet or wild animal. Yet God's love is deeper still!
- This question is designed to awaken trust in the hearers...

Matthew 6:31-32 - ³¹"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For after all these things the Gentiles seek. **For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

- Worry often stems from forgetting God's character; Jesus reminds us, "You are valuable to God."
- We see God's Omnipotence – There is no problem you face that God does not already know about ... care about ... and has the ability to do something about!

Call to Response:

- Rest in your Father's affection and care. Your value is rooted in His creative love and Christ's sacrificial love.
- Let each worry prompt a reminder: "I am even more valuable to God than the birds. He sees me, He cares for me, He will provide."

There was a time, not too long ago when I was overwhelmed by worry and concerned about my family...future

- This passage came to mind...If God feeds the birds...
- It's as if I could hear the Spirit of God whisper, "Are you not of more value than they?"
- Peace in this World – is not found by chasing the things of the world, or worried about what will happen...
- Peace and Rest are found in the Loving Arms of God our Father... who know my every need.

As you go out this week, whenever any small bird, let it remind you:

- God cares for you, calls you to wholehearted devotion, and offers peace that the world can't give.
- Keep your focus on God alone, and rest in His daily care.

Reflection Questions

- When was the last time I did something good or generous without anyone knowing?
- What competes for the primary allegiance of my heart right now?
- What worry or anxiety do I most often carry with me?

Let's Pray

1. Seek Sincerity

- When was the last time I did something good or generous without anyone knowing?
- What motivates most of my good deeds—God's approval or the recognition of others?
- How can I practice more "secret acts" this week to deepen my sincerity before God?

2. Settle Singularity

- What competes for the primary allegiance of my heart right now?
- Are there any possessions, goals, or relationships that distract me from whole-heartedly serving God?
- What is one thing I can intentionally surrender or reprioritize to make Christ first in my life?

3. Secure Serenity

- What worry or anxiety do I most often carry with me?
- How have I experienced God's provision in the past when I trusted Him?
- What is one step I can take this week to turn my anxieties over to God and seek His Kingdom first?