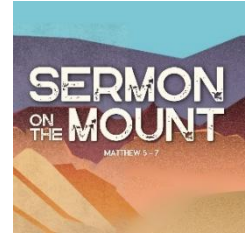


The Sermon on the Mount: Treasure in Heaven

Lesson 12: December 1st and 2nd

Read Matthew 6:19-24



Sermon Reflection Question: What captured your attention from Sunday's sermon?

Jesus' Kingdom addresses every aspect of our lives, and he now addresses our relationship with material possessions, wealth, and security. He challenges his followers to evaluate where they store their ultimate treasure and who truly owns their primary allegiance.

1. In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus contrasts storing up treasures on earth with storing up treasures in heaven.
 - a. What are the natural vulnerabilities of earthly treasures listed in v. 19, and how do heavenly treasures differ?
 - b. From what we have learned so far in the Sermon on the Mount, what does it mean to store up "treasures in heaven?"
 - c. Jesus makes a bold claim in v. 21 that our hearts are oriented around what we treasure. How does your use of money, possessions, time, or resources reveal what you truly value?

In Matthew 6:22-23, Jesus uses the metaphor of the eye as the lamp of the body and whether our eyes are "good" or "bad" will determine if the rest of body becomes full of light or of darkness.

2. Jesus uses the Hebrew idiom of the good eye and bad eye for generosity and stinginess, respectively. Why does Jesus place this metaphor in between his teaching on storing up treasures and the inability of humans to serve both God and money?

3. How does a heart consumed by greed, materialism, or fear corrupt a person? What are the effects of this corruption on their life, family, and greater community?

4. Jesus concludes this section with a clear declaration in Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and money."

a. Why does Jesus frame money not merely as a tool or commodity, but as a competing "master" that demands ultimate devotion?

b. How does attempting to serve both God and wealth divide a disciple's heart and lead to compromised integrity? See Psalm 86:11.

Jesus' teaching is not simply a command to have fewer possessions. He is exposing the deeper question of what we seek, what we value, and whom we serve.

5. In a Southeast Michigan culture that conditions us to find security and status in material accumulation, what are subtle ways wealth can quietly become a "master" in your life?

6. Describe an experience where you witnessed generous devotion to the kingdom of God in an impoverished situation or environment? How did this experience shape you or change the way you view your finances or possessions?

7. How can you discern whether your current habits and pursuits reflect an "unhealthy eye" (living out of scarcity and fear) or a "healthy eye" (living out of Kingdom generosity and trust)?

8. What is one specific way our life group or church family can foster a culture of radical generosity and mutual trust in God's provision rather than measuring success by worldly standards of wealth?

PRAY & RESPOND: Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to examine your heart. Write down where you are tempted to find security, significance, or satisfaction in possessions rather than in God? What would it look like this week to store up treasure in heaven, give greater attention to God's Kingdom, and live more freely under God's generous care? Conclude by thanking God for the ways He has provided for you and asking Him to deepen your trust in Him.