

Kingdom Living

Studies From the Sermon on the Mount

The Treasure Trap

Matthew 6:19–34

¹⁹ “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²² “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

²⁵ “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸ “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Our calling is to follow Jesus *in our context* rather than to retrieve and re-create his context in our world. What he says about possessions in our text is of direct value in ours; he is not asking us to replicate first-century Galilee but to live out *his* kingdom vision in *our* world.¹

A. Don't Place Your Trust Earthly Treasure (vv. 19-24)

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1. Earthly Treasure is Temporary (v. 19)
2. Earthly Treasure Misdirects Our Desires (v. 21)
3. Earthly Treasure Dims Our Light (v. 23)
4. Earthly Treasure Traps Us (v. 24)

B. Don't Worry About Earthly Treasure (vv. 25-32)

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¹ McKnight, S. (2013). *Sermon on the Mount* (T. Longman III & S. McKnight, Eds.; p. 210). Zondervan.

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1. Worrying About Treasure Steals Our Time (v. 27)
2. Worrying About Treasure Demonstrates Lack of Faith (v. 30b)
3. Worrying About Treasure Steals Our Peace (v. 32a)

C. Seek God’s Kingdom and Find True Treasure (v. 33)

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

1. In God’s Kingdom, Treasure is Eternal (v. 20, 21)

Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

2. In God’s Kingdom, Treasure is Shared (v. 22)

Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light.

3. In God’s Kingdom, Peace Comes from Trusting in God as Provider (v. 32b)

...your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.