



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON ON THE MOUNT WEEK 7: MATTHEW 6:19-24

Community Group Study Guide - Week of March 7, 2021

Introduction:

- When Jesus walked on earth He brought a great paradigm shift in religion. All religions and earthly wisdom had a message of "serve this thing to be saved." Jesus said that people could do nothing to be saved and that they should instead receive the salvation that he offers, repent, and, since they have the greatest treasure in Him, they should serve Him. He got this message across by talking about money a lot (25% of his teachings are about finances); he emphasized that money never delivers what it promises, as He, as God, can.

1. The Power of Money Over the Heart

- A survey of all of scripture on the topic of money reveals statements about it on opposite extremes; on one hand it warns us strongly about the dangers of wealth, and on the other hand it extols its virtues.
- What are we to make of this? Is money good or bad? To be embraced or avoided? What Jesus teaches us is that money is not the source of one's struggles or triumphs with it, but that it is one's heart toward money that drives these experiences.
- Jesus taught that money presents itself as a Savior, and that we must be careful about its ability to sway our hearts. Because Jesus knew the power of money, he didn't present it as neutral, but as powerful. He doesn't want us to ask "if" it has power over us, but "how much" power it has over us. We need to constantly gauge how greedy and materialistic we are.
- In verses 22-23, Jesus makes a connection between eye and light and money and treasure. In the same way that eye health helps you understand reality around you, there's an eye of your heart that, if darkened, causes you to misunderstand life. This heart-eye health/devotion/ambition helps us see the world. If healthy and focused on God, we see ourselves and the things of this life clearly and place them in their right place. If unhealthy, the heart-eye leads us to wrongly evaluate ourselves and the things of the world, which breeds pride, overconfidence in our own powers, and seek independence from God's claim for our life.

2. The Powerlessness of Money in Satisfying the Heart

- Every religion and philosophy agrees that money can never deliver or satisfy as it promises. Acquiring money with the wrong heart leads to a desire of "more, more, more" and results in money having power over us.
- Verses 19-21: Jesus wants followers to distinguish between two kinds of life perspectives: one focused on the present and what it offers and one focused on eternity. Jesus calls followers to put trust in Him and in eternal things at the cost of trusting in perishing things.
- Christians have to be careful to not interpret that Jesus is saying that work, wealth, savings, financial stewardship, and leaving an inheritance as bad things. Rather, we're called to work hard (for the glory of God) in order to have excess to share with others. God does want good things for his children, and often provides them to be used for the purposes of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- When engaging money, starting from a position of wealth or poverty, we have to constantly ask if money, the way we're pursuing it and/or the way we're using it, is pulling us away from God or drawing us toward Him.
- We go wrong when we start thinking that money can deliver peace, satisfaction and joy in ways that only God can deliver such things. Money's value is limited.

3. The Power of the Gospel Over Money, by Satisfying the Heart

- When God does bless us with wealth, how can we make sure money is a blessing to us and those around us? By seeking heart satisfaction in the Lord.
- When we hunger for righteousness, He gives freely, and when we hunger and thirst to live out that righteousness, by the power of the Holy Spirit, satisfaction comes. Practically, we must seek the face of God at the start of each day and calibrate the eyes of our heart to have this hunger on a daily basis.
- Whole conversation from this text leads to the question: How do we overcome the love of money? Answer: Realize that Jesus Christ is king and I am not. The Christian says, "I can't build a kingdom on earth, but I am called to submit to Christ, admit that I have been greedy and covetous in seeking treasures that are not Him, believe in Him, repent, serve him as a citizen in the Kingdom of God."
- If rich in faith, we'll be rich in everything that matters. If poor in faith, poor in everything that matters.
- Two test cases about the hold of money on the heart in Scripture: (1) Judas' heart was blinded by money even after walking the earth with Christ for 3 years, leading to his betrayal and suicide. (2) Zacchaeus, a tax collector who took advantage of fellow Jews, saw that wealth did not deliver and received Jesus' offer of salvation, which changed his heart and led him to become an extremely generous servant of Christ.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that we are not to view money as inherently good or bad, but to focus on our heart condition toward it.

Heart

To trust that seeking heart satisfaction in our Lord and king, through a life of service to Him, will satisfy far more than the greatest treasures of this life.

Hands

To steward our wealth, gifts and opportunities in life for the glory of God and the spread of His eternal Kingdom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A **Membership 101** session will be held on **March 14 at 1PM**. Email admin@mosaicboston.com if you plan to attend.

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to **sign up for a service team**.

This **Sunday March 14**, we will hold a **Prayer Service at 5PM**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:19-24.

1. Can someone take a minute or two to summarize the main points of the sermon?
2. Given your experiences with money and/or what you have been taught about it in the past, are you more inclined to think positively or negatively about acquiring wealth?
3. Shall money/wealth be embraced or avoided? What do the Scriptures teach?
4. What is Jesus attempting to convey when He uses the term "treasure" in verse 21?
5. What do verses 22 and 23 teach about the power of money/any treasure to sway the "eye" of our heart? How can money cause our "eye" to go bad?
6. In verses 19 and 20, Jesus distinguishes between treasures that are perishable and imperishable. How can a person who acquires earthly wealth use their wealth to store up imperishable treasure?
7. What does it mean to seek heart satisfaction in the Lord? What kind of lifestyle will it lead someone to pursue?
8. How does recognizing Christ as King help a person overcome their love of money?
9. Did this sermon help you form a healthier view of any "good things" on earth, or anything that you might be tempted to "treasure"?