

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:19-21, 33**

**Sermon Title: Seeking the Kingdom with my treasure and my heart.**

Date: August 13, 2023

Speaker: Tim Wolfe

Matthew 6:19-21, 33

19 "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. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

*I want to ask a question. Did you, did we come today to Seek first the Kingdom? To hear from God?*



*Can we pray right now and ask God to help us to Seek first the Kingdom and hear him speak to us today?*

*We see in these Three Chapters 5, 6, and 7 - what is called "The Sermon on the Mount" "is sometimes thought of as Jesus' "Declaration of the Kingdom." "With this message, Jesus declared what His Kingdom is all about." Pastor David Guzik*

In these 107 verses found in these 3 chapters, Jesus declares how citizens of the Kingdom live. How our hearts, actions, and lives should be congruent!

congruent - capable of being placed over another figure and exactly matching. congruent triangles.

In Chapter 5 Jesus tells disciples gathered on the mount and others who had gathered:

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Then in Chapter 6, he moves on to talk about charity, praying, and fasting. In all three areas - I believe marks of citizens of the Kingdom. He does not tell us not to them but challenges us not to be hypocrites.

This goes back to a major theme I believe of the sermon of the mount. Jesus is talking to Jewish people, God's people, and his disciples. And they have gotten so lost in rituals and religious activity they have lost their hearts. Not a heart for charity, prayer, or fasting. But with a heart for God, they practice their charity, prayer, and fasting.

They are hypocrites - they seek the approval of men rather than seeking the Kingdom of God.

The new testament word for hypocrite is the picture of the Greek actor who played all the characters and wore all the different masks playing all the different characters.

3X's: "as the hypocrites" - repeated three times in Chapter 6 - verses: 2, 5, 16

Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your father who is in heaven.

(In other words, don't use your deeds as self-promotion)

1. Don't use charity as a means to be praised by others - "Look how generous s/he is!"
2. Don't pray loudly in order to be complimented by others - "Look how religious s/he is!"
3. Don't fast in a way that points back to yourself - "Look how holy s/he is!"
4. Don't use your possessions to draw attention to yourself — "Look how much God has blessed her/him." (Likewise don't "covet" the things of this world but revel in the things the Lord makes you a steward of)

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## I. Where are you making your deposits on Earth or in Heaven? Vs. 19,20

19 "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.

Money is not evil. Possessions are not evil. Rich people are not the only ones who have treasure. Jesus is teaching his disciples and you and I - there is a danger of hoarding treasure and there are dangers in investing your treasure on earth instead of Heaven or the Kingdom.

Morgan in his commentary - "The Master does not say it is wrong to possess earthly treasure. He does say it is wrong to lay it up for self. We are to hold it as stewards."

The martyred German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer warns about the false security that can come from the "thralldom of material things." Yes. The more things we have, the more our things seem to have us. We start to organize our lives around them and spend money to maintain them. Bonhoeffer says that hoarding is idolatry. Why? Because it puts something other than God at the center of our lives.

The parable of the Seed: Matthew 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Our very own resident Theologian: Thom Mozloom "That's pretty rough — but it's biblically accurate: At the time Jesus is speaking (and, I believe, this still holds true today) everything you are in possession of is actually owned by your king. ("Show me what you will not give up and I will show you your idols.")

## II. Our treasure is our King, and he should have our hearts. Vs. 21

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church once said, 'The last part of a man to be converted is his wallet.'

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Our treasures will not pass from this life to the next; but the good that has been done for the kingdom of God through the use of our treasures lasts for eternity, and the work God does in us through faithful giving will last for eternity.” Pastor David Guzik

LEO TOLSTOY - “The only significance of life consists in helping to establish the kingdom of God.”

**The Wise Men (3 Kings or 20 Kings)** Matthew 2: 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. **Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts,** gold and frankincense and myrrh.

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Matthew 6:25-32

**Vs. 25 Do not be anxious about your life**

**Vs. 27 by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life**

**Vs. 28 And why are you anxious about clothing?**

**Vs. 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’**

III. **What are we seeking? What’s the first priority of our hearts?** Vs. 33

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

The Kingdom of God mentioned: 100 different times in 16 different books in the Bible in 2/3 of the NT

Vs. 33 - But Seek first the Kingdom - it's an imperative command - we are to do it first

I like this definition from a friend and leader in my life: Pastor Vance Pitman

"God's sovereign activity in the world, resulting in people being in a right relationship with himself".

Jonathan Edwards the American revivalist preacher "The seeking of the kingdom of God is the chief business of the Christian life.

Spurgeon: "What is it that we are to seek? The text says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." God has set up his kingdom in this world; inside the kingdoms of men, there is the kingdom of God, wherein lie rules. It is of another kind from all earthly kingdoms, for Christ said, "My kingdom is not of this world." It is a purer, higher, truer, more durable kingdom than any Caesar has ever been able to set up.

Our desire should be, first of all, to enter into the kingdom of God, — the kingdom of the new life, the kingdom of perfect liberty, the kingdom of faith in Christ, the kingdom of union to Christ, the kingdom of the power of the Spirit of God. Have we all entered it? If we have not, let us seek that kingdom immediately.

Spurgeon: "Further, being in the kingdom of God, and enjoying its privileges, then seek to extend that kingdom. Go forth every morning, conquering and to conquer. With the weapons of love and kindness, seek to win men to Christ. Enlisted in this holy army, carry on a constant crusade for Christ. From your earliest waking thoughts, till you fall asleep at night, be intent, first and foremost, to win other hearts to Christ. Let all your care go in this direction, — to serve God, to live for God, to glorify God. Seek this as earnestly as the merchant seeks more trade, as the miser seeks more gold, as the sick man seeks a return of health: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God."

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

Pastor Chip a few weeks ago: "If time is a limited resource, as God's people, we must steward it faithfully for the glory of God."

If Jesus is our Treasure, he must reign and rule in our hearts and every part of our lives. He is worthy of everything, all my money, time, and talents.

"We must seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness . . . We must surrender our treasure because he has our heart. Because we are investing in the kingdom of God. Because we can trust him to take care of the rest.

Slow Train Coming is the 19th studio album by American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan, released on August 20, 1979, by Columbia Records. It was Dylan's first album following his conversion to

Christianity, and the songs either express personal faith, or stress the importance of Christian teachings and philosophy.

One of the Songs on the album was - "Gotta Serve Somebody"

You may be an ambassador to England or France  
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance  
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world  
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls

[Chorus]

But you're going to have to serve somebody, yes indeed  
You're going to have to serve somebody  
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord  
But you're going to have to serve somebody

**The Death, Burial, and Resurrection of  
Jesus Christ.**