

Matthew 6 19 21 “Treasure that lasts”

GOLD Homer in the "Iliad" and "Odyssey," makes mention of **GOLD** as the glory of the immortals and a sign of wealth among ordinary humans.

Jason and the Argonauts sought the Golden Fleece around 1200 B.C.

GOLD has always been powerful stuff. The earliest history of human interaction with gold is long lost to us, but its association with the **gods**, with **immortality**, and with **wealth** itself are common to many cultures throughout the world.

Early civilizations equated gold with ***gods and rulers***, and gold was sought in their name and dedicated to their glorification. Humans almost intuitively place a high value on gold, equating it with power, beauty, and the cultural elite. And since gold is widely distributed all over the globe, we find this same thinking about gold throughout ancient and modern civilizations everywhere.

GOLD, beauty, and power have always gone together. Gold in ancient times was made into shrines and idols ("the Golden Calf"), plates, cups, vases and vessels of all kinds, and of course, jewelry for personal adornment.

GOLD closed at 1735 an ounce... an ounce...

GOLD IS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY ON EARTH; IN HEAVEN GOD USES IT TO PAVE THE STREETS!

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.

The wisdom of God is revealed in Jesus' first command... it's a negative one.
Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

MOTH DESTROYS... CLOTHES: representations of who we are... no doubt clothes were and are a symbol of status and wealth. [Joshua 7:21-26](#) records the tragic demise of Achan who plundered a destroyed foe (against God's command) 21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it." Garment/silver/gold all together in coveting... greatly sought after.

My brother Greg, "label man" NOTW jeans... love them but with every washing they fall a little more apart. "it's gonna burn" well when it comes to garments they will probable fall apart before they burn.

RUST DESTROYS... The word "rust" is an approximate translation of a word that means "eating" and refers better to the spoiling action of worms upon food storage. Jesus is here reminding his listeners that regardless of how vast their grain supplies, those supplies will ultimately succumb to **rats, mice, worms, and vermin.**

WHERE THIEVES BREAK IN AND STEAL Finally, one's **GOLD** and **SILVER** were never safe in the ancient worlds. There were no such things as banks or savings and loans. Valuables were generally stored or buried in one's house. But the problem was that thieves regularly dug through the soft clay walls of homes and departed with the family wealth. Pastor Mike we have FDIC to guarantee our money... your missing the point! The ancient Greek more literally says *do not treasure for yourself treasures on earth*. The idea is that earthly treasure is temporary and fading away (**where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal**), but **heavenly treasure is secure.**

Is Jesus saying wealth is evil or bad? **NO!** The Scriptures nowhere contain a prohibition of having private property. Nor is preparing for the future prohibited.

Proverbs 6:6-8 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, ⁷ Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, ⁸ Provides her supplies in the summer, *And* gathers her food in the harvest.

We are to provide for our own 1 Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Paul speaks against those in the last days that would go "legalistic"

1 Timothy 4:3-4 *commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; ⁵ for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Regarding material things, the secret to happiness is not *more*, but **contentment**.

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. 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.

Doesn't say money is evil, but the "LOVE" of it... I've never been hired by a poor person... money is not what's bad but what man does with it!

Luke 16:14 Now the Pharisees, who were **lovers of money**, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.

LAST DAYS... 2 Timothy 3:2 For men will be **lovers of themselves, lovers of money**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.

What Jesus is prohibiting in this marvelous sermon is the **SELFISH ACCUMULATION OF GOODS**.

In Luke 12:15 Jesus says, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Selfish accumulation is **NOT ONLY** what Jesus is rebuking... Notice Jesus' words are not about money but "treasures" thay-sow-ros' treasures in the Greek here is an **INCLUSIVE TERM**. Certainly it **refers to money**, but it is not confined to money.

Your home... is that your treasure? "**The American Dream**" lost your house? Lost your reason to live? Whatever it takes to own a home... sad.

Your children... Treasured more than God?

Your vehicle... Your life is over when you get a ding.

If **anything** in this world is **everything** to you, it is an earthly treasure.

Why does Jesus prohibit such "love of earthly treasures" because **They are "gonna burn"** they won't last.

*those who try to find happiness **here** are perpetually frustrated.*

EARTHLY TREASURES... *don't fill you the way you thought they would. The **THINGS THAT MATTER IN LIFE ARE NOT THINGS AT ALL... DO YOU HAVE THINGS OR DO THINGS HAVE YOU.***

relationships *formed are never as satisfying as we thought they would be.*

DREAMS *pursued are never as fulfilling as we hoped they would be.*

Remember... No un hauls following a Hearse Or as the Spanish proverb says, "There are no pockets in a shroud."

NONE OF US WILL TAKE ANYTHING WITH US! Job understood this perfectly: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

So Jesus wisely commands, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; We would be wise to remember that Jesus' words of prohibition are a command, not an option.

The wisdom of God is revealed in Jesus' second command... this one is positive. **verse 20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

You will be **rewarded** in eternity according to how you live your life as a Christian... **COOL!**

1 Corinthians 3:11-14 ... 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation [with] **GOLD, SILVER, precious stones**, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on [it] endures, he will receive a reward. **NOT SURE** what this reward will be... but whatever it is; it is gonna be rad... it will be eternal ... **Nothing will destroy it and no one can steal it! COOL!**

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a

good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

100'S SURVEYED OVER THE AGE OF 90... "If you had life to live over again what would you do different?"

1. Reflect more
2. Take more chances
3. Do more that would last when I'm gone

People and the Word of God is all that will last forever.

One life will soon pass and only what's done for Christ will last...

THE BEST WAY TO SPEND YOUR LIFE IS DOING THINGS THAT WILL OUTLAST IT!

Paul tells us to be "Heavenly minded"

"Set your hearts" on this hidden resource, is Paul's exhortation. The heart declared in God's word is all that you are; your hopes, dreams, aspirations. Think with affectionate gratitude of what the Lord Jesus has already done for you and what he is to you now. **He wants to be in all because He is all.**

Keep it that way. Implicit here is the idea of CONCENTRATION.

This seeking and setting our minds on the things above should **saturate and permeate our thinking**, our conversations, friendships, studies, work, hobbies and play time.

Set your heart on things above. It's a central message not only of Paul's, but what Jesus is teaching us here. **Live for heaven and you'll enjoy life.**

Ending with the challenge for a lifetime... ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Jesus draws the conclusion that you can only have your treasure (and your heart) in one place;** we can't lay up treasure on earth and on heaven at the same time.

AGAIN, LOOK up *heart* in a theological dictionary... your heart is **all** that you are.

The seat of moral nature and spiritual life, the seat of grief, joy, desires, affections, perceptions, your thoughts, the understanding, the reasoning powers, the imagination, conscience, intentions, purpose, the will, faith... in its moral significance in the O.T. includes emotions, the reason and the will... the ultimate seat of purity or **defilement before God is in the heart.**

WHERE OUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL BE OUR INNER BEING – TOTAL PERSON.

WHAT OCCUPIES YOUR THOUGHTS? WHAT IS IT YOU MOST WORRY ABOUT?

HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE VALUE OF OTHERS? Clothes?... car they drive?... what part of town they are from?... How beautiful their house is?... what job do they have?... **Is it all about earthly measurements?**

ARE YOU CONTENT WITH WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU?

Philippians 4:12 Good News Translation ¹² I know what it is to be in need and what it is to have more than enough. I have learned this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am **content**, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little.

JON COURSON IS SO QUOTABLE IN THIS STATEMENT “Giving is not God’s way of raising cash. It’s God’s way of raising kids. Every time I give, I am giving away part of my stinginess and selfishness. God doesn’t need my money, but I need to give. The Lord wants my heart, not my money, and He knows that wherever my treasure is, that’s where my heart will be. If I have financial investments, I will follow the stock market carefully. If I hold real estate, I will follow the housing market with genuine interest. If I have treasure in heaven, guess where my heart will be? It is profoundly interesting to me that Jesus didn’t say, “Where your heart is, there your treasure will be.” Instead, He said, “Put your treasure in heaven, and your heart will inevitably follow.”

How can we be more heavenly-hearted? By sending our treasure ahead.

Dr. Lloyd Jones puts it this way: “I do not cling to these things. They do not become the center of my life and existence. I do not live for them or

dwell upon them constantly in my mind; they do not absorb my life. On the contrary, I hold them loosely ... I am not governed by them; rather do I govern them; and as I do this I am steadily securing, and safely laying up for myself, "treasures in heaven."

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also: IS YOUR HEART SET ON HEAVENLY TREASURE? If so, your treasure is incorruptible, and so is your heart.

Mrs. Bertha Adams was 71 years old when she died alone in West Palm Beach, Florida on Easter Sunday **1976**. The coroner's report read, "Cause of Death...malnutrition." After wasting away to **50** pounds she could no longer stay alive. When the state authorities made their preliminary investigation of her home, they found a veritable "pigpen...the biggest mess you can imagine." One seasoned inspector declared he had never seen a dwelling in greater disarray. Bertha had **begged food** at her neighbors' doors and had gotten what clothes she had from the **Salvation Army**. From all appearances she was a penniless recluse – a pitiful and forgotten widow. But such was not the case! Amid the jumble of her filthy, disheveled belongings were found two keys to safe-deposit boxes at two different local banks. The discovery was unbelievable. The first box contained over 700 AT&T stock certificates, plus hundreds of other valuable notes, bonds and solid financial securities, not to mention cash amounting to **\$200,000**. The **SECOND BOX** had no certificates, just cash - \$600,000 to be exact. Bertha Adam was a millionaire and then some! Yet she died of starvation. Her case was even more tragic if she was destitute spiritually.

Her life is an extreme parable of the lethal dangers of materialism, which promises so much but cannot give us what we need most. Our consumer society is constantly telling us that life at its best consists of having more and more possessions and pleasures. **As Christians, we know this is patently false. DO WE REALLY?**

OUR CULTURE SCREAMS "GET MORE"... GOD'S WORD SAYS "GIVE MORE!"

Balance! When we get out of balance, devastating!

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