BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE–WEEK 3 TREASURE: WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS
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WEEK 3 — TREASURE Where Your Treasure Is (TRUST)

Now we intentionally address our relationship with money and possessions. Jesus spoke frequently about money because money has an incredible ability to expose what is happening in our hearts. This week isn't primarily about Building for the Future. It's about discipleship. What does my spending reveal? What does my giving reveal? Where is my security? What am I holding too tightly? What does trusting God with my finances actually look like?

Matthew 6:19–24

19 ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy,
and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 ‘The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,[c] your whole body will be full
of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy,[d] your whole body will be full of darkness. If
then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 ‘No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you
will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

BIG IDEA: Our treasure doesn't just reveal where our heart is—it helps determine where our heart is going.

SERMON OUTLINE

I. Introduction
II. TREASURE–Earthly or Heavenly Perspective (Matthew 6:19-21)
III. FOCUS–Earthly or Heavenly Perspective (Matthew 6: 22-23) [DANIEL-10M]
IV. SERVICE–Earthly or Heavenly Perspective (Matthew 6:24)
V. CONCLUSION/COMMITMENT

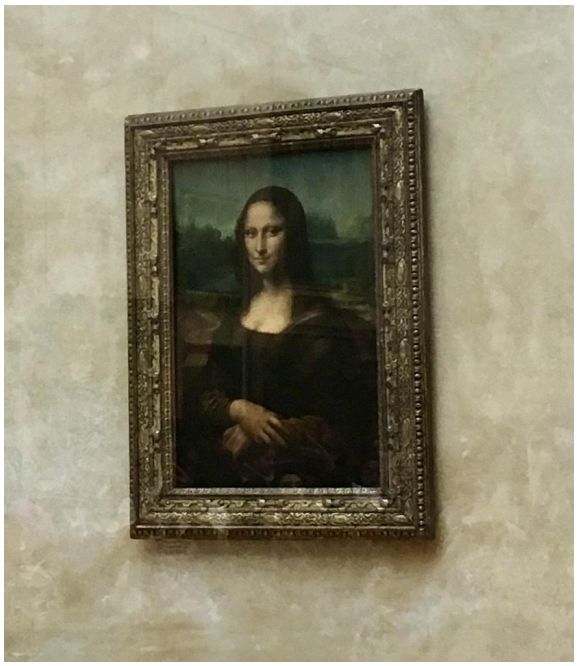
Where is your treasure? What do you treasure?
Eternal perspective on treasure
Eternal perspective on our focus
Eternal perspective on serving

DEB
INTRODUCTION

In 1911 the most famous work of art in the world was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. Da Vinci’s Mona Lisa was put under an employee’s jacket after hours and walked

right out of the museum. It was recovered 3 yrs later in Florence, Italy and returned to the Louvre. In today's market, it is valued at around 2 Billion dollars and considered priceless.

****SLIDE OF THE MONA LISA



I visited the Louvre in 2017 and stood in line to see the Mona Lisa. When I got to the front of the line I was shocked to see that this priceless painting only measures 30"x21"! It was so small and arguably the most valuable piece of art in the world!

The Mona Lisa is considered a priceless treasure. Now in my life, I don't own things that would be valued like this, but there are things in my life that I consider priceless–My husband, my daughters, my family and friends. I would do anything to prevent someone from trying to harm them.

In Matthew 6 we will read today about treasures and we will spend time seeking to understand what Jesus meant in verses 19-24.

Please read along with me Matthew 6:19-24–

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BIG IDEA: Our treasure doesn't just reveal where our heart is—it helps determine where our heart is going.

At LLCF we are in a sermon series–Building For the Future. And today, we are looking at TREASURES. Not pirate's booty found in a sunken ship, or even famous paintings like the Mona Lisa. We are going to look at treasures from an earthly and heavenly perspective because as followers of Jesus Christ, our lives are hopefully moving towards being fully mature in Christ, or moving away from Him.

These verses we are looking at today are a matter of understanding what has captured our attention and ultimately, has captured our heart. Our we trusting the things of this world or eternal things?

MATTHEW 6:19-20–[19] 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Jesus is in the middle of his sermon on the mount, found in Matthew 5-7. This sermon comes at the beginning of his 3.5 year ministry, and his teachings are to help the people understand the Law from a heavenly perspective because the people only understood it from the interpretations offered by the Rabbi's (the spiritual leaders), along with the Pharisees and Saducees. They interpreted the Law for the people and their interpretations resulted in a lot of rule following, legalistic obeisance that really, took the people further away from God.

Jesus wasn't just giving a collection of moral rules but helping the people see the kind of person they can become when we live under God's loving and active rule. And when he gets to this section in Matthew 6, Rather than simply commanding people to stop loving money, Jesus is exposing how our relationship with possessions, our vision of what is good, and our ultimate loyalties determine the direction of our lives.

What do you treasure?

1. What do my spending, saving, and giving reveal about the things I value most?
2. Am I treating financial security as a practical responsibility or as the ultimate foundation of my peace?
3. How could I use my resources in ways that better reflect God's purposes?

DANIEL

FOCUS–EARTHY OR HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE

Thank you, Pastor Deb.

Church, I want you to know what an honor it is for me to stand up here with Pastor Deb. For thirty-one years she and Pastor Larry kept their eyes on Jesus and their hearts on this church, and a lot of us are standing on what they built. The psalmist says, “one generation commends your works to another.” That’s what building for the future looks like — and I’m grateful to be on the receiving end of it.

Now look at these words from Jesus, right in the middle of His teaching on treasure:

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body

will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" — Matthew 6:22–23

Have you ever noticed where this shows up? Jesus has just said, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." And in a moment He'll say, "No one can serve two masters." Heart… master… and right in between, He talks about your eyes. Why?

Because before something captures your heart, it captures your eyes.

Jesus says the eye is the lamp of the body. Think of it as a window. Whatever comes through the window fills the house. If the window is clean, light floods every room. But if the window is covered in grime, the house is dark — even on a bright Long Beach afternoon. The sun didn't change. The window did.

Now, the word translated "healthy" is the Greek word haplous. It means single, simple, undivided. A healthy eye is a focused eye — it isn't trying to look in two directions at once. And the word for "unhealthy" is ponēros — literally, evil or bad.

And Jesus' listeners would have caught something we miss. In their world, saying someone had a "good eye" had nothing to do with eyesight. It meant they were generous. When they looked at people, they wanted to give. Saying someone had a "bad eye" meant they were stingy. When they looked at people, they wanted to grab.

So when Jesus talks about healthy and unhealthy eyes, right in the middle of a teaching on money, everyone listening knew what He was getting at. How you see determines whether your hands open or close.

So Jesus is saying: a healthy eye is single-focused and open-handed. It sees God first and so it can see people, and money, and possessions rightly. An unhealthy eye is divided and grasping. It sees everything through the lens of "I don't have enough."

What you behold shapes how you see. And how you see shapes how you live.

When we fix our eyes on who God is (His goodness, His faithfulness, His generosity toward us in Jesus), everything else starts to come into focus. We become like what we behold. Behold a God who is good, and you'll start seeing His goodness everywhere. Behold a God who gives, and you'll become a person with open hands.

And we can't miss what Jesus says next, I believe one of the scariest lines in scripture: "If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" The most dangerous darkness isn't the darkness you know you're in. It's the darkness you think is light. You're not stumbling because you're blind — you're stumbling because you're sure you can see.

Think about Lot in Genesis 13. Abram and Lot have so much livestock the land can't hold them both, and Abram generously says, you choose. And the Bible says, "Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan… was well watered, like the garden of the LORD."

Lot looked and saw paradise. But what looked like paradise was actually the road to Sodom.

And watch the progression. First Lot looks toward Sodom. Then he “pitched his tents near Sodom.” A chapter later he’s living in Sodom. By chapter 19 he’s “sitting in the gateway of the city” — he’s on the city council. Nobody wakes up one day and moves to Sodom. It starts with where you let your eyes linger. Lot’s eyes led his feet.

And church, this isn’t an “out there” reality. We struggle with this.

You open your phone for five minutes. You came on content, and you leave discontent. Your kitchen was fine until you watched the renovation video. Nothing about your life changed in those five minutes. Your lens did.

Black Friday is three weeks away, and some very smart people are being paid a lot of money to help you see lack. Because what you keep looking at, you eventually reach for.

Or it’s the bank account. When the balance is high, God feels faithful. When it’s low, God feels far away. Without realizing it, the number has become the lens we see God through.

So let me ask you… what shapes how you perceive reality?

Go back to Lot. When he looked out over that plain, he saw opportunity. Security. Prosperity. A garden. But the very next verse tells us what Lot couldn’t see: “Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.” And Moses adds a note to the first description of that beautiful view: “This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.”

The place that looked like paradise cost Lot nearly everything. His home, his wealth, his influence, his family’s peace. He walked out of Sodom with little more than his life. And even as they ran, Lot’s wife looked back. Her eyes were still on the place that was destroying her. Jesus would later say just three words: “Remember Lot’s wife.”

Here’s what gets me. Lot wasn’t careless. He looked carefully, and he chose what seemed best. That’s exactly what Jesus means when He says, “If then the light within you is darkness.” Lot didn’t think he was walking into darkness. He was sure he was walking into light.

So the question isn’t only “What are you looking at?” It’s “What are you looking through?”

Your fears and your wants? Or the goodness of God and the truth of His Word?

As I begin to wrap up my section, I want to tell you of one of my favorite stories in the Bible…

in 2 Kings 6 where Elisha’s servant wakes up, walks outside, and sees an enemy army surrounding the city. And he panics: “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” Elisha says, “Don’t be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And then he prays — not “LORD, change the situation” — but “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” And the servant looks again, and the hills are “full of horses and chariots of fire.”

The circumstances didn’t change. His sight did.

And so it is with us. You may feel you are surrounded on every corner, but God.. oh the things that He is preparing!

Now having this perspective is often hard, for we can't clean our perception of reality on our own, but Jesus can… The Bible tells us that He came to bring "recovery of sight for the blind." He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jesus doesn't just give us a better view of our money — He gives us a new way of seeing everything.

And as we go through this Generosity series… can I remind you… can I exhort you that generosity is what happens when our eyes are so full of Jesus that our hands are finally free to let go.

An unhealthy eye always sees "not enough," so it clutches. A healthy eye sees Jesus, sees that He reigns now and will forever, that He is enough, and the grip loosens. Open hands aren't the price of loving Jesus. They're the overflow of it. That's freedom.

So here's my challenge. **Will you commit this week to let Jesus check your eyes?**

Will you commit to bring the thing or things you've been holding tightly - your money, your time, a possession, a plan - and ask, "Jesus, how do You see this?" And if you do this, I promise you, the good shepherd will lead you faithfully.

What you treasure captures your heart. What you behold shapes how you see. And together, they reveal who you really serve. Pastor Deb, would you lead us in our next section?