



## Group Discussion Guide

For group meetings from June 20 afternoon through June 27 morning

### The Sermon on the Mount, Week 10

#### Matthew 6:19-24

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! “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.”*”

After sharing the truth that good works done with the wrong motive will only lead to earthly rewards, Jesus explained the difference between earthly and heavenly treasures. He directly taught that his followers must not focus their efforts on earthly pursuits that would only yield earthly treasures. These could be easily destroyed by the forces of nature or stolen by thieves. Instead, a disciple must focus on heavenly pursuits that yield heavenly treasures, and these would not be subject to destructive forces or unrighteous people. He then gave the application of this teaching through the following statement: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” (v. 21).

With this statement, Jesus taught that what a person treasures will reveal the state of his or her heart. In what does a person invest with time and finances? As each person sought to answer this question, each would also discover what he or she valued ... whether they were things of this world or things of God.

Jesus then compared the eye to a lamp; much like a lamp allows its owner to find a way in the darkness, the eye allows a person to navigate life on earth. A healthy eye that is focused on the things of God will provide a life filled with the light of God’s righteousness, while an unhealthy eye that is focused on the things of the world will lead to a life filled with the darkness of sin. Jesus taught that if the eye was only allowing darkness to enter into the body, that darkness would be difficult to escape. With this analogy, he was stating that a person fixated on the things of the world would be bound to the ways of the world.

Jesus taught that it was impossible for a person to have dual loyalty to both God and money. These “two masters” were too different to be served at the same time. If a person was focused

on serving God, that individual would not be bound to building earthly wealth and possessions. Conversely, a person focused on building earthly wealth and possessions would be unable to truly serve God.

***Other Scriptures from this week's reading:***

- **Ecclesiastes 5:1-20** (Solomon writes about the emptiness of pursuing worldly riches)
- **1 Timothy 6:6-10** (Paul teaches that loving money leads to many evils)
- **James 5:1-6** (James issues a warning to those who are rich and choose to oppress others)
- **1 John 2:15-17** (John writes that a love of the world demonstrates an absence of the love of God)
- **Romans 6:15-19** (Paul writes that those who have trusted in Jesus are set free from sin and must now operate as slaves to righteousness)

## Discussion Questions

1. In your words, how would you describe an earthly pursuit that yields earthly treasures? How would you describe a heavenly pursuit that yields treasures in heaven?
2. Offer some specific examples of earthly treasures and how they are obtained, as well as heavenly treasures and how they are obtained.
3. Think about how you invest your time and resources. What does that show you about what you treasure? Do you think you need to make changes to invest more into the things of God? If so, what are those changes?
4. Consider what you are currently focused on. Would you say your life is like the healthy eye or the unhealthy eye? Explain your answer.
5. Money is a part of life. Do you think Jesus is teaching that money is evil? Why or why not? How can a follower of Jesus handle money in a way that is focused on the things of God?
6. How do the other Scripture passages in this week's reading help you understand and apply Jesus's teachings in this section of the Sermon on the Mount?