

Intro

We've been walking through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in a series we are calling "Astonished." After the people had heard these things from Jesus, we read that the crowds were astonished. Jesus was teaching them about life in his Kingdom.

With this in mind, I have a question for you. *What do you love most in life? What is the one thing that if it was taken away, your entire world would crumble? What I'm asking is "what is your treasure?"*

Main Point - Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (vs. 21)

Matthew 6:19-24 | 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 word "treasure" = 3 times & the word "destroy" = 2 times. There is great treasure that is available to us and that there is an enemy that wants to destroy that. There is something that God wants us to have, that our enemy doesn't. There is a war for your soul
- If the main point is *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* we should define a couple of terms. What is "treasure" and what is "heart?"
- **What is treasure?**
 - We may instantly get mental images of pirates burying treasure or Scrooge McDuck swimming in pools of gold coins and that's not so far off, but we need to look closer to get a clearer picture of the treasure this passage speaks to.
 - **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."
 - Here we see Christ's Kingdom being so valuable that the man is willing to invest everything he has because of the worth of it. This is the kind of treasure we are getting at.
 - Paul speaks of this kind of discovery in his own life. **Philippians 3:7-8a** ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
 - Unfortunately, we can also have this same kind of relationship with lesser treasures. We can invest our all into things that ultimately don't matter for eternity and harm us in the present. We tend to elevate things to god status, that cannot support that kind of worship, and are powerless to do anything for us.

- Webster's definition of treasure is wealth stored up and hoarded OR something of great value, BUT for our purposes, we will look at treasure as **"the thing or things that you are most willing to invest your life (time, thoughts, energy, attention, resources) into."**
 - Where are you investing your life? **That's your treasure**
- **What is your heart?**
 - When the Bible speaks of the heart, it means far more than what we typically think of in our culture. In the age of Rom-Coms and cookie cutter Hallmark love stories, we tend to think of the heart as simply what gives us butterflies when a person we love is around. Or maybe when you read it, you think of the organ that pumps blood throughout the body, but the 1st century audience that Jesus was preaching to would have understood "heart" to essentially mean the "control center" at the core of each person that drives their existence. The heart is what informs our desires, choices, hopes, dreams, everything.
 - So, to flesh out our main point **"where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"** is to say **"Whatever means the absolute most to you will be what your control center will direct all of your life towards."** This can be the best thing if what means the most to you is eternal, but if your desire is towards the things of this world, you will be let down.
 - This passage also speaks to where your treasure is stored, and there are only two places and one is obviously safer than the other::
 - On earth
 - All creation is fallible, destructable, unreliable. All creation fades, rots, rusts, and breaks. Investing your life into the worship of created things never ultimately satisfies.
 - In heaven
 - Christ is an indestructible, secure hope. He has done and is the only one who can do the work to give us eternal security, joy, hope, peace, direction, and love.
 - **Colossians 3:1-4 | 1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- Is your treasure in a place where it can be destroyed or is it indestructible?
 - Money can be lost, stolen, squandered
 - Can't buy anything of eternal significance
 - **BUT it can be used to invest eternally**
 - Property will one day become junk
 - Can't be taken with you
 - **BUT it can be stewarded for eternal purposes**

- Titles and prestige are temporary and fragile
 - The only title that matters in the Kingdom is “son” or “daughter”
 - BUT they can be stewarded to lead and influence for eternal purposes
- Success is relative and worldly
 - Doesn’t matter in God’s Kingdom
 - BUT a life poured out for Christ can be the best measure of success

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,
 23 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!

- The purpose of the eye is to *behold*. Healthy eyes can see clearly to behold good things that bring freedom and light. Unhealthy eyes are focused on things that lead to selfishness, greed, covetousness and darkness.
- **2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
 - **Principle:** *You become what you behold.* This works both ways, as we look to Jesus as our treasure, we become more like him, but as we look to anything else as our treasure we become more and more conformed to the system built around those things.
- **Illustration:** Smeagol/Gollum
 - In J.R.R. Tolkien’s, *Lord of the Rings*, a hobbit named Smeagol comes into possession of the One Ring of Power and becomes obsessed with it. It becomes his treasure. He spends years and years beholding it, and obsessing over it. It rules his life. He even calls it “my precious.” His obsession takes a toll on him mentally and physically until he is transformed into an unrecognizable monster with a split personality named “Gollum.”
 - This is extreme, and fictional. We aren’t hobbits, we’re humans, but it is a picture of when our love for something elevates that thing to “god status” in our lives. It doesn’t work. It only destroys. Nothing in creation was built to hold our worship, and nothing but Christ can do anything for our bankrupt hearts.
- **Illustration:** As much as I hate to admit it, I’m not always the greatest driver, and I can also tend to be super distracted, looking around while traveling down the road. I have a bad habit of letting my hands follow where my eyes go. It’s not unusual for Alyssa to smack me and tell me to watch the road because I’m pulling the car in the direction that I’m looking. This is like us when we take our eyes off of Jesus and place them elsewhere. We usually don’t even think it’s that big of a deal at first, but when we are running off the road, headed towards a ditch, desperately trying to correct, it’s obvious how important it is to keep our focus in the right direction.
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2 | 1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the

founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- If you can imagine that we are all in this race called life, and as you get in your lane to start the race, you look to the end of the lane and see Jesus. He is the hope. He is the aim. He is the one who endured the cross for you, and loves you most. As you run all that matters is keeping your focus, your spiritual eyes, fixed on Jesus, singularly focused, and throwing off any weight that is holding you back from finishing the race.
- **Illustration:** A house with no lights is either scary, dangerous or both.
 - If what you are beholding, what you are looking to as your treasure, your hope, where you are investing your life is created rather than Creator, it is going to leave you in a scary, dangerous, and ultimately a hopeless place. Jesus is light.

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.

- Verse 24 ties this section up into a massive statement that we all must wrestle and do something with. We can't serve two masters. In the words of Bob Dylan “You're gonna have to serve somebody.” We all have to take a serious look at what ends we build our lives around and ask ourselves “who, or what, am I really serving?”
- KJV & NKJV - money = mammon
 - Mammon - often carried negative connotations in biblical culture and, in addition to love of money, was often used to describe lusts and excesses like greed, gluttony, and dishonest gain.
 - We don't need to disregard that Jesus references money here, because the love of money is rampant and evil, but if money is not your temptation, it is important to understand that you can put anything in the place of money here, and it's still harmful, backwards, and damaging to your soul.
 - Why money? Because money is most often viewed as a means to security, power, and getting the desires of your heart.
 - Most people who have had all the material possessions they ever wanted, including King Solomon, would tell you, that when you have it all, you are still left wanting, because creation never satisfies.
 - What is your treasure?

● Money?	● Relationships?
● Comfort?	● Titles?
● Success?	● Experiences?
 - If money is your treasure, you are stingy
If Christ is your treasure you are generous

If success is your treasure, you invest your life into building a name for yourself

If Christ is your treasure, you invest your life in building up the name that is bigger than yourself

If relationships are your treasure, you burden people with the weight of your worship

If Christ is your treasure, you can love others the way you have been loved

If comfort is your treasure, you will be cowardly

If Christ is your treasure, you are brave

If life experiences are your treasure, you will never be content

If Christ is your treasure, you will find constant satisfaction in him

- **Illustration:** In John 12 there is a story about Jesus where we see this on display in a very tangible way. Jesus has recently raised his friend Lazarus from death and they are having a dinner for him. As they reclined at the table eating, Lazarus' sister Mary approached Jesus with a pound of expensive ointment and began, in a display of major humility, to anoint Jesus' feet with the ointment and wipe his feet with her hair. Can you imagine the gratitude she felt to be at the feet of her Messiah, her Saviour King, who had just raised her brother back to life and would soon go to lay down his own life for her and millions of other desperate sinners. I imagine that she had tears of joy in her eyes as she anointed her King. As the beautiful smell of the perfume fills the place they are in and he takes notice of what is happening, I imagine a displeased grimace forms on the face of Judas Iscariot, the disciple of Jesus who would, in a few days, betray Jesus for 30 shekels of silver. "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" he asks. What he is really asking is "whoa, whoa, whoa, what are you doing wasting this expensive perfume on Jesus?! Don't you know how much this is worth and you're just throwing it away?!" John informs us that Judas was a thief and didn't actually care about the poor. Judas just saw dollar signs. Then Jesus speaks up "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

To Mary, this moment was one of the most precious of her entire life. She was desperate for rescue from the brokenness in and around her. She had heard stories her whole life of a Messiah that was coming to rescue, and she was sure that Jesus was Him. This perfume was worth a year's wages for the average person and she would have poured out even more if she could, because Jesus was her everything. Her heart was where her treasure was, eternity with Jesus.

To Judas this was a missed opportunity to make some money, just like the exchange he would make later this week. Jesus was a money grab, not a Saviour. His worship was driven by a love of money. His heart was wrapped up in the world's riches.

I am sure that when Mary left this life, she heard the words “well done, my good and faithful servant,” but Jesus said that for Judas, it would have been better if he had never been born.

What we treasure will dictate our biography. What we value most, guides how we live our lives. *Where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also.*

What I don't want you to hear me say:

- Live a certain way and God will love you

What I do want you to hear is:

- We live for God because we love and have been loved by him
- Our actions are an overflow of what is in our hearts

Application/Response

Pray:

- That the Lord would show you where you are storing up earthly treasure rather than treasures in heaven
- Ask the Lord to help you discern what you are treasuring and what that reveals about your relationship with Christ.

Repent:

- Confess to the Lord the ways you have been storing up earthly treasures
- Ask him to help you see the great value in Christ, in the eternal rather than the temporal.
- Ask him to help you believe and walk in repentance

Four Ways: Take Communion | Pursue Baptism | Give | Pray

Community Group Questions:

1. Reread Matthew 6:19-24. In what ways are you most tempted to store up treasure on earth? Why?
2. How has Jesus shown himself to be the best and highest treasure?
3. How does treasuring Jesus change your perspective on storing your treasure on earth?