

Sermon Discussion Guide

11.19.23 Message | Jason Southward/David Beuttel/Justin Brunk

Matthew 6:19-24

Key Scripture:

“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.”

- Matthew 6:19-24

Message Highlights:

- Storing up treasures in heaven is something we do intentionally and with purpose.
 - This is a conversation on priorities because it gets hard when our desires and the world mix.
 - If our priorities are right, there's only one boss, God himself.
 - We put value on everything, but it is impossible to put a value on Jesus. We can't put a price tag on Jesus because he is the price tag.
 - Cultivating a life of storing up treasures in heaven begins with time, prioritizing time with our Savior.
-

CONVERSATION STARTER

Share with the group: Do you have a box with trinkets from your youth? If you opened your box, what might you find in it? What does that find mean to you? Will you ever use it again? Does it add value to your life?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God's Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

What is the overall purpose of this text?

- What does this passage say about God's character?
- What does this passage tell us about how we are to approach a relationship with God?
- What is a "treasure of heaven"? What is an example of a "treasure of Earth"?
- What does spending more time building up "treasures in heaven" versus "treasures on earth" look like?
- Why would Jesus emphasize, "Where your treasure is there your heart will be also"?
- What does this reveal about the intimate connection between our values, priorities and the condition of our hearts?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- How does the concept of treasures in heaven challenge and reshape our understanding of success, wealth and prosperity in the context of the Kingdom of God?
- How does the call to lay up treasures in heaven contribute to the broader theological theme of seeking first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

- How do the teachings in this passage and the questions above challenge common cultural values and expectations related to greatness and success and how we approach the upcoming holiday season?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- Discuss how altering your concept of gift-giving this Christmas season makes a Kingdom impact. How could this change how others think about life and purpose?
- How could building up treasures for heaven have an impact on your community? Work life? Home life?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- In his message Sunday, David Beuttel said that cultivating a life of storing up treasures in heaven begins with how we prioritize our time with Jesus.
 - Do you agree or disagree with David's assertion? Why or why not?
 - How do you monitor and adjust how you live to be more of a Kingdom-minded person?
 - In what ways can you adjust to grow in your Kingdom thinking?