

Faith in a Materialistic World

Matthew 6:19-23

Message Outline

I. Materialism distorts what we see and who we worship.

It makes us believe....

- we are not materialistic.
- satisfaction is for sale.
- possessions are permanent.
- we are owners not stewards.

II. Materialism comes from the heart.

III. Materialism loses its grip when....

- we see things from an eternal point of view.
- we practice putting our money where our mouth is.
- our hearts are captivated by a different treasure.

Looking Back

Madonna once sang, "Cause we are living in a material world, and I am a material girl." Whether we agree with that sentiment or not, she's expressing what's absolutely true about our cultural beliefs in 21st century America. And the result of this naturalistic worldview is that – by and large – we look to our material world to satisfy our deepest longings and desires.

For followers of Jesus, we're called to something different – to swim upstream in our materialistic culture and live our lives based on the values of Jesus and in light of eternity! Easier said than done. Jesus' words in Matthew 6:19-23 help us know why that type of resolve and the actions that accompany it are so important for us today.

Thinking It Through

disagree|agree, consider|contemplate

Millionaire John D. Rockefeller was once asked, "How much does it take to satisfy a man completely?" He said, "It takes a little bit more than he has."

"Man is born with hands clenched; he dies with them wide open." Line from the Jewish Talmud

"Jesus doesn't talk about money so much because He wants to get your money. It's because He doesn't want your money to get you!" Andy Stanley

"You possess your possessions or they possess you." Jon Foreman, Switchfoot

"Prosperity knits a man to the world. He feels that he is finding his place in it, while really it is finding its place in him." C.S. Lewis

Working it Out

1. Read Matthew 6:19-23. What stands out? What do you notice about Jesus here? What do you notice about the power of money?
2. From Matt's sermon, summarize why materialism is so dangerous.
3. Matt talked about four distortions that materialism can cause.

It makes us believe

- we are not materialistic.
- satisfaction is for sale.
- possessions are permanent.
- we are owners and not stewards.

Which of these do you struggle most with believing? (perhaps not intellectually, but based on the way you live)

4. Based on Matt's sermon, where does materialism come from? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
5. Matt mentioned three ways we address materialism at the heart level.

Materialism loses its grip when....

- we see things from an eternal point of view.
- we put our money where our mouth is.
- our hearts are captivated by a different treasure.

Which of these three most resonates with you? Why?

6. What are some factors or obstacles that make it difficult for you to see things from an eternal point of view when it comes to money?

7. What do you think it looks like practically to “lay up treasure in heaven”? What actions does that involve?
 8. Why is it important, in this area, for us to be captivated by the grace of Jesus?
 9. What is one thing from this teaching that you can pray about or put into practice over the coming weeks?
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