

**“Treasures in Heaven”**

**Matthew 6v19-24**

**Scripture Ref: Gen 1:31; 1 Tim 6:17-19; Prov 13:22; 1 Tim 5:8; Prov 22:26; Prov 28:22; 1 Tim 6:6-10**

- 1. Safe Haven: With the current dive in the stock market, coupled with falling real estate values, many people are searching for a “safe haven” for their treasure!**
  - a. Kingdom financial advise – don’t put your treasure here!**

***Treasures on Earth***

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

- 2. It should be obvious given the current financial crisis - Jesus is pointing out the obvious – material wealth and assets are subject to change...**
  - a. Market forces, being taken by force or fraud, the ravages of time**
- 3. Now, Jesus isn’t saying that we should have NO possessions at all**
  - a. In fact, God has give us all things for our benefit, our enjoyment, and for our provision**

**Gen 1:31** *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.*

**1 Tim 6:17-19** *...(God) who gives us richly all things to enjoy.*

- 4. So what is Jesus talking about? Well the key word is “treasure” – not in the sense of something of value,**
  - a. ...but in the sense of something that I place a high value on in my life. There is a huge difference**
  - b. Think of a diamond. If a man living in the jungle found a large raw diamond, what would he think of it?**
    - i. “It’s just a big rock.” Can’t eat it. Can’t cut down a tree with it.**
    - ii. Maybe you could throw it at an animal as a hunting implement!**
    - iii. But it you were to cut it and put it on auction at Christie’s, and a rich person would pay millions for it.**
    - iv. What gives it value? It’s aesthetic beauty?**
    - v. But what if the economy totally tanks? The world economic system collapses? Would that diamond be worth anything? NO!**
- 5. What’s my point? WHAT DO YOU VALUE? What do you treasure?**

- a. It's an important question, because Jesus is telling us something – a crucial principle of life:
  - b. The material things of this world are not eternal – they will not last.
  - c. You can be rich one day, and something outside of your control happen, and you are now poor.
  - d. And if your treasure – what is important to you – are the things of this world, then you are setting yourself up for failure in the eternal realm.
6. I should mention that God isn't against having savings, investments, and material assets.

*Prov 13:22* A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children,

*1 Tim 5:8* But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- a. So it is wise, prudent, and biblical to save for retirement and to have assets,
  - b. But we should keep in mind: Everything on this planet is at risk. Just ask anyone who lives in Galveston!
  - c. Not only is it at risk – there is no “after death rollover”. You might have millions in your Lehman Brothers account (oh wait – maybe not any more...)
  - d. At any rate – when you pass from this world, there is no mechanism to transfer the wealth of this world to your heavenly account.
  - e. It's not the same currency!
7. So, if you cant take it with you, what do you do? Perhaps you can send it ahead:

### ***Treasures in Heaven***

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

8. What? Give all your investments to the church and they will be safe? Not exactly...
- a. Paul wrote to the church:

*1 Tim 6:17-19* Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works,

*ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

9. Now if you are here – and you are “rich” (whatever that means!), you might be feeling a little protective right now.
  - a. “Pastor Clay is going to hit me up!”
  - b. But notice – Jesus is not saying that the rich person should give away everything, or even most of their things.
  - c. He is saying “...do good, ...be rich in good works, (be) ready to give, (be) willing to share...”
  - d. In other words, take *some* of what God has blessed you with, and make in investment in God’s heavenly kingdom: Your account in heaven!
10. Now Jesus is not talking to rich people here, so if you not rich don’t thing “I’m off the hook”.
  - a. This is a principle that applies to all Christians
  - b. And if we will implement it into our lives, three things will happen:

### ***Right Giving***

#### ***#1 Give, Your Heart will Follow***

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

11. Interesting choice of words: Jesus didn’t say “where your heart is, that’s where your treasure will be”
  - a. Many people feel they should “follow their heart”, and that’s where they put their treasure
  - b. Problem is the bible tells us that our heart is not a good guide!

*Prov 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,*

- c. Instead Jesus tells us to “put our treasure in a place where it will lead us in the right direction”
12. Think about it: If my treasure is in the stock market, then I will follow the market – looking to get the best return.
  - a. If my treasure is in real estate, I will focus on the real estate market – seeking new trends.
  - b. But if my treasure is in heaven, guess where my focus will be? EXACTLY!
13. “But wait” you say, “...is there more?” To quote one VP candidate “you betcha!”

## **#2 Give - You Life will be a Light**

22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

**14. Jesus is not recommending you see an optometrist.**

*Prov 28:22 A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.*

- a. **IOW – if your focus is on money and riches, it’s going to block your focus on God – and the result will be darkness**
- b. **And anyone who comes across our path – we’ll see them only for what they can do for us**
- c. **The light of Christ will not be what shines!**

**15. But when we have the Lords generous heart – His light will shine to all those around.**

## **#3 Give - You Will be Free from Bondage**

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

**16. There is speculation on what mammon means – I believe it is a spiritual trap for man, to take his focus off of the Lord.**

**17. Some Christians say “I serve the Lord”, but if you look at their lives, how they spend their time, how they spend their money**

- a. **It becomes clear who their real god is – MONEY**
- b. **Personified in the thought: “if I only had more money... \_\_\_\_\_” (fill in the blank).**
- c. **How much more?**

**18. One survey done asked people “how much would it take for you to be satisfied with your income?”**

- a. **People responded – almost all – that double what they currently earn would be enough.**
- b. **Problem is, once you get that, it’s not enough anymore.**
- c. **It is the great driver of our economy, yet the curse of contentment: We always want more.**
- d. **One man said “I know many cant buy happiness, but I sure would like to find out for myself”**

**19. Dominique Bouhours : "Money is a good servant, but a poor master."**

- a. What happens when my focus is on riches, my “treasure on earth?”
- b. My treasure becomes my master – and I its slave. I am serving mammon.

**20. So Jesus is warning us: When the desire for riches or things is the “treasure” of our life, we are headed for trouble...**

- a. We become willing to “do whatever it takes”, the “end justifies the means”.

*1 Tim 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

- b. Maybe we don’t steal or cheat, but we expend all that we have: time, focus, intellect, towards things that are not going to give us the fulfillment that we think they are.
- c. And we enslave ourselves to the god of mammon.

**21. If I asked you right now, would you like the secret of contentment? Here it is: Want what you have!**

- a. OK, I know that sounds simplistic (even corny?), but in fact there is a sense biblical principle involved:

**1 Tim 6:6-10**

*6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.*

- b. Paul is encouraging us to **COUPLE** godliness with being content
- c. In other words, reigning in our “wanter”.
- d. Does not mean that you can’t ever consider a newer car (never buy new!), or another home
- e. But it means that my desire for those things is not the driving force of my life.

**22. All of this comes down to one thing – the same thing we talk about over and over – SURRENDER.**

- a. When we surrender our lives to the Lord, it should be **ALL** of our lives, not just the “spiritual” part.
- b. Are we surrendered that we are part of God’s kingdom? That our true home is heaven?

- c. **If you knew with absolute certainty that there would be a certain investment would be worthless in 10 years, you would avoid that investment.**
- d. **The Lord is telling us: The**

***READ Matt 6:19-21***

**23. Next week – don't worry, be happy!**

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