

The Sermon on the Mount

Part VI: Treasure in Heaven

“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.” (Matthew 6:19-20)

Introduction

1. Jesus has taught us how to treat our enemies (Matt. 5:38-48) and how to practice righteousness for God's eyes rather than man's (Matt. 6:1-18).
2. He now gives the command that becomes the theme for the rest of the chapter: lay up treasure in heaven, not on earth (Matt. 6:19-20), “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21).
3. Every section that follows — the eye, the master, worry, and what we seek first — sets the same two treasures side by side and asks us to choose.

Discussion

I. “Where Your Treasure Is” — The Theme of Matthew 6 (Matt. 6:19-21)

- A. Matthew 6:19-20 is the theme for the rest of chapter 6. Each paragraph that follows is a different way of seeing the same choice between treasure on earth and treasure in heaven:
 1. An evil eye = treasure on _____.
 2. A good eye = treasure in _____.
- B. Verses 22-23: The lamp of the body.
 1. Mammon = treasure on _____.
 2. God = treasure in _____.
- C. Verse 24: Two masters.
 1. Worry about provisions = treasure on earth _____.
 2. Trusting in God's provision = treasure in _____.
- D. Verses 25-31: Worrying vs. trusting.
 1. Seeking provisions first = treasure on earth.
 2. Seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness = treasure in heaven.
- E. OBSERVE: These are not four separate lessons but one. Where our treasure is shows up in what we look at, whom we serve, what we worry about, and what we pursue — “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21).

II. The Lamp of the Body — A Good or Evil Eye (Matt. 6:22-23)

- A. What is an “evil eye” in Scripture?

1. Proverbs 28:22: “A man with an evil eye _____, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him” — a stingy spirit hurrying after riches for itself.
 2. Deuteronomy 15:9: warns against letting “your eye be _____ against your _____ brother” by withholding help as the year of release draws near, “and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you.”
- B. DISCUSSION: Why does God describe seeing a brother’s need and turning away as an “evil eye”?
1. ANSWER: 1 John 3:17 — “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”
 - a. The eye “sees his brother in need” — the need is not hidden.
 - b. He “shuts up his heart from him” — this is the evil: a closed heart behind an open eye.
 - c. The love of God is not abiding in him.
- C. A tender, generous, giving spirit is evidence of God’s love present in you!

III. Two Masters — God or Mammon (Matt. 6:24)

- A. There is a difference between doing the work God gives and working to get rich. The question is not whether we work, but why — and for whom.
1. Faith does not work to serve riches.
 2. Faith works because God’s grace gives us work to do, while He Himself supplies.
- B. Our labor is the way we step into fellowship with God’s supply (Hag. 1:1-12; 2:15-19).
1. COMPARE: In Haggai’s day the returned exiles labored hard for their own houses while the Lord’s house lay in ruins.
 - a. Their work did not provide: “You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes” (Hag. 1:6).
 - b. God explained why: “You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?” says the LORD of hosts. “Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house” (Hag. 1:9).
 2. God called them to the work He had given: “Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the LORD (Hag. 1:8). The people obeyed the voice of the LORD (Hag. 1:12).
 - a. From the day the foundation of the LORD’s temple was laid (Hag. 2:18), God’s word to them changed: “Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you” (Hag. 2:19).
 - b. CONCLUSION: The same people, the same fields, the same labor — the difference was whom the work served. Work offered to God became the channel of His supply.
- C. But when we take God out of the picture and work to serve riches, riches become our master in place of God.

IV. Seek First (Matt. 6:25-33)

- A. Worrying vs. trusting (vv. 25-31).
 - 1. Jesus points to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, which the Father feeds and clothes (vv. 26, 28-30), and asks whether worry can add anything to our lives (v. 27).
 - 2. Worry about provision is a form of treasure laid up on earth; trust in God's provision is treasure laid up in heaven.
- B. Provision is sought first by those who do not believe in God: "For after all these things the Gentiles seek" (Matt. 6:32a).
- C. God IS the provision for those who seek Him; therefore they do not need to worry.
 - 1. "For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things" (Matt. 6:32b).
 - 2. Lamentations 3:24-26: "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."
 - 3. OBSERVE: The soul's portion is not merely what the Lord gives — it is the Lord Himself. The one who has Him has his provision.
- D. For those who understand and trust in this, their heart is poured into seeking God and pursuing His righteousness: "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you*" (Matt. 6:33).

Conclusion

- 1. Treasure in heaven is not abstract. It is revealed in what has our, who has our service, what has our trust, and what has our pursuit.
- 2. Where the eye, the master, the trust, and the pursuit all point toward God, that is where treasure is truly being laid up — where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.