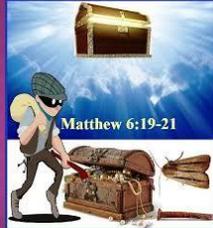


TEMPORAL & ETERNAL TREASURES



INTRODUCTION

- ◉ Followers of Jesus must not only shun hypocrisy in religious duty.
- ◉ They must also avoid covetousness.
- All of life is to be lived and all its attitudes are to be formed according to the perspectives of the kingdom of God.

INTRODUCTION

- ◉ In Matthew 6:19-24, Jesus did not condemn wealth but rather the love of wealth.
- ◉ He did not rule out earthly possessions, positions, or pleasures but instead the improper emphasis on them.
- Not wrong to possess things, *but wrong for things to possess us.*

INTRODUCTION

- ◉ Sin of Covetousness is as dangerous as Sin of Hypocrisy!
- ◉ Jesus warned against living for the things of this life.
- ◉ Materialism will enslave the **heart** (Matt. 6:19-21), **mind** (Matt. 6:22-23), and **will** (Matt. 6:24).

I. AMASSING WEALTH

- ◉ Believers must evaluate what is truly important to them.
- ◉ What are YOU living for?
- ◉ This life or the life to come?

I. AMASSING WEALTH

A. Earthly Treasures

- ◉ When Christ commanded: *“Stop **treasuring up for yourselves treasures upon earth**”* (a literal translation),
- ◉ He was speaking in terms that were highly relevant to his hearers.

I. AMASSING WEALTH

- ◉ “treasures of earth” = any valuable which is perishable or which can be lost in one way or another.
- ◉ Anything that men value: position, status, work, and family, can become a treasure.
- ◉ What Christ taught is a proper perspective toward earthly things.

I. AMASSING WEALTH

B. Heavenly Treasures

- ◉ Christ’s followers are to daily “*treasure up*” for themselves “*treasure in heaven*” that will endure.
- ◉ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes, “If we have a right view of ourselves in this world as pilgrims, as children of God going to our Father, everything falls into its true perspective.”

I. AMASSING WEALTH

C. Treasures & Heart

- ◉ What we value occupies our minds and emotions; consumes our time with planning, day-dreaming, and effort to achieve.
- ◉ As Jesus puts it, “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”

I. AMASSING WEALTH

C. Treasures & Heart

- ◉ By “*heart,*” = the inner man, the seat of man’s intellect, emotion, and will.
- ◉ A man who focuses on earthly treasures, such as wealth or fame, will dedicate himself to these ends.

I. AMASSING WEALTH

C. Treasures & Heart

- ◉ Conversely, a man who looks for eternal rewards will give himself to God’s service.
- ◉ All that he is, has, and does will be for the glory of God.

II. GUARDING INFLUENCES

- ◉ To maintain an eternal perspective in such important matters as wealth and morals, believers must watch at all times:
- ◉ Learning to appreciate good influences (22), while staying away from those things that could harm them spiritually (23).

II. GUARDING INFLUENCES

A. The Value of Good Influences

- ◉ *“The lamp of the body is the eye. If, therefore, your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.”*
- ◉ Christ meant that believers must always guard the influences that come into their lives, making sure they are proper.

II. GUARDING INFLUENCES

B. The Danger of Bad Influences

- ◉ *“But if your eye be evil, your whole body shall be filled with darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness” (v. 23).*
- ◉ Those who allow the wrong things to affect their lives will suffer spiritual and physical consequences.

APPLICATION

- ◉ Believers must evaluate their lives in a number of areas:
- ◉ heroes worshipped, job and career aspirations, books and magazines read, music listened to, and material things desired.
- This self-evaluation must occur on a regular basis because failure to be on guard leads to disaster.

III. CHOOSING MASTERS

A. A Necessary Choice

- ◉ A man cannot serve (literally, serve as a slave) two earthly masters who are “altogether opposed” at the same time.
- ◉ Similarly, no believer can serve both God and mammon.

III. CHOOSING MASTERS

A. A Necessary Choice

- ◉ In the strictest sense, “*mammon*” describes material wealth.
- ◉ Its application can extend to any number of earthly matters.
- ◉ Men can become slaves to pleasure, lust, ease, fame, etc. as quickly as they can to money.

III. CHOOSING MASTERS

A. A Necessary Choice

Lloyd-Jones writes, “Worldly things really do make a totalitarian demand . . . How they tend to grip the entire personality and affect us everywhere. They demand our entire devotion; they want us to live for them absolutely.”

God will not share primary allegiance with anyone or anything.

CHALLENGE

- ◉ Where is your  ?
- ◉ Is the light within us still light, or has it become darkness?
- ◉ And which master do we serve?
 - God or Money?