



A just weight
and balance



are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Where Is
Your

Treasure?

(Matthew 6:19-24)

- Jesus makes **two** striking statements regarding our **treasures.**
- # 1 **Lay not up...**
- # 2 **But lay up....**

- Matthew 6:19

*Lay not up for yourselves
treasures upon earth,*

- Matthew 6:20

*But lay up for yourselves
treasures in heaven,*

- Lay up treasure
indeed,
 - but in the
right place.

- In Matthew 6, one of the main points Jesus stresses is our relationship to our heavenly Father.

- In this chapter alone, Jesus mentions the term “*Father*” 11 times, showing the significance and importance of that relationship (verses: 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 26, 32).

- Our relationship to the Father as His children is the most remarkable and incredible relationship.

- We have been

- “*bought with a price*”,

- So that we can be called

- “*children of God.*”

Romans 8:15-17

- **The great secret of life**

according to our Lord
is to see ourselves
as children of our
heavenly Father.

- So many things

pull us away from
that relationship

and compete for our attention.

- As any good father, our Jesus gives sage advice to His children.
- Are you listening?

- In Matthew 6,
Jesus brings up
two big temptations
we all face
as believers.

- **The first temptation**
is the religious man
doing his works before
man to receive the praise
of man instead of doing
them in secret, where only
God the Father knows.

- Jesus says that if we seek the praise of men, we have our reward.
 - The temptation is...
 - to seek to be noticed,
- to be put on a high pedestal as one who is religious.

- **The second temptation**
is the temptation of
being like the world
in seeking treasures on this earth.
- So often, we look at the things of this earth and say to ourselves,
 - ***“If only I had that, then I would be all set.”***

- We all seek to find security and satisfaction.

- Jesus advises us as how to find it.

- Do we seek the worldly at the expense of the heavenly?
- Do we think we can do both:
 - Both warrant our attention.

- Two big question

arise from the

Sermon on the Mount:

- # 1 Where is my heart?

- # 2 How is my eye sight?

- In this study of the Sermon on the Mount has your heart been challenged

to really evaluate your life in seeking a real, vibrant relationship with God.

- In a lot of ways,
we can put on masks
so people perceive us
as spiritual or godly,
when in reality,
in our private life,
we struggle with fears,
temptations, and desires
for the things of the world
instead of glorifying God.

- Like Eve in the garden the things of the world are alluring.

- Genesis 3:6

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. ¹⁹

- Jesus directly addresses the heart by asking the question, **“Where is your treasure?”** (Matthew 6:19-24)
- **Then he answers it in** **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**

- There are a lot of things competing for your heart, as this is the control center for life.
 - A person's life is a reflection of his heart.

- Proverbs 4:23

*‘Above all else,
guard your heart,
for it is the
well spring of life.’*

- If you think right,
you will live right.

- Therefore, we must guard our hearts and watch over them.

- 1Chronicles 22:19

*Now set your heart
and your soul to seek
the LORD your God;*

- In this message,
I ask three questions.

- **The first question**

we must ask ourselves as we begin this passage of Scripture is:

- **“Where is our treasure?”**
 - In asking this, we will answer the question **“Where is our heart?”**

- The second question to ask ourselves is:
- “Where is our focus?”
 - What are our eyes focused on?
- Are they focused on the seen or the unseen?

- The third question to be addressed is:
 - “Who, or what, are you serving?”

- Here Jesus is surrounded by religious people, **Sadducees** and **Pharisees** **who look very religious on the outside,** but who in their hearts are serving money and themselves rather than God.

- Jesus is also surrounded by people who have never heard **this kind of radical teaching.**

- **It may also be that** this is the first time we have really been awakened to this novel teaching f Jesus.

- ***“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 no break in and steal.***
- ***For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”***
(Matthew 6:19-21).

- It is not too difficult to think of examples of men and women who have laid up for themselves treasures upon the earth, thus showing where their heart truly was.
- Several come to mind:

- Example 1

The story of Achan
(Joshua 6:17-18, 7:1-26).

- God instructed the children of Israel to attack Jericho, and to bring all the silver, gold, and vessels of bronze and iron to be consecrated to the Lord into the treasury of the Lord.

- As they attack Jericho,
one of the men
disobeys
and keeps for himself
a beautiful
Babylonian garment,
200 shekels of silver,
and a wedge of gold
weighing 50 pounds.

- Because of this man's sin,
Israel is defeated
at the battle of Ai,
and this man is put to death
because his heart
coveted after these riches
instead of honoring the Lord
and doing as He had asked.

- Example 2

The Rich Young Ruler

(Matthew 19:16-22).

- Comes to ask Jesus asking the question as to how he might have eternal life.

- Jesus answers the man by telling him that he needs to obey the commandments, and the rich young ruler responds,
“Which ones?”
 - Jesus responds,
 - “You shall not murder,”
 - ‘You shall not commit adultery,’
 - ‘You shall not steal,’
 - ‘You shall not bear false witness,’
 - ‘Honor your father and your mother,’
 - ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

- The young ruler responds that he has kept all these things and asks,

“What do I still lack?”

- This is where Jesus **drops the bomb** on the rich young ruler.

- He says,

“Go, sell what you have and give to the poor and follow Me.”

Matthew 19:22

But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

- Where was this young man's heart?
 - You can tell by his reaction.
- His heart is controlled by his wealth and riches.

- This young ruler had a lot going for him, but he is not willing to let those things go in order to follow Jesus.

- **He is willing to**
love his neighbor
and do the commands
that pertain to his fellow man.
- He is willing to look good
in the eyes of the world.
- **But he is not willing**
to let go of that which
he has obtained on earth
in order to gain eternal life.

- We have seen a couple of examples of people who laid up their treasures on the earth, and the end result for both was tragic.
 - Their hearts were set upon the things of this earth.
 - They willingly disobey God for the sake of temporal riches that do not last.
- The things we gather here on earth are only temporal.

- Where is your treasure?
- So many things come to mind when I think of what Jesus is saying.
 - Are you earthly-minded or heavenly-minded?
 - Are you investing in the future eternity to come, or are you investing in the here and now?

- **Jesus uses three examples**
to show how the things
we deem most important
are only temporary.
 - He uses the...
 - **moth**,
 - **rust**,
 - **thief**.
- We can all think of examples of
these things in our lives

- **The Moth:**

- We all know that when moths get into our clothes, they eat holes right through them.

- The moth is a tiny little butterfly-looking animal **that doesn't appear harmful at all.**

- **But it will destroy** the most expensive, elaborate fabric you could ever own.

- **The rust**
- Motorists across the nation have been shelling out **\$3 billion annually** in recent years to repair rust-related damage to their vehicles, according to the AAA.
- Rust destroys, as moths do, the property and riches we work so hard to obtain.

- **The Thief:**

- With money and riches comes great fear of someone taking them, so mankind does all in his power to protect what he has.
 - He puts **walls** around his house so no one can get in.
- He has **security guards** guarding them at all times and hidden safes for his rare jewels.
 - **What does the thief do?**
- He **breaks in** and takes what the wealthy man has, and he will do anything to get it.

- What do you deem as valuable, because what you deem as valuable shows you where your heart is?
- Maybe it is money and wealth.
 - Maybe it is power and the desire to be recognized.
- Maybe it is looking spiritual on the outside so that people think you have it together.
- Or any number of other things..

- In the sermon on the mount
Jesus is calling us
to change our minds
from the temporary
to the eternal,
from the things
that are passing
to the things
that are eternal.

- Jesus asks us to be like those in Hebrews 11 who had eternity in their hearts.

- *These all died in faith,*
- *not having received the promises,*
 - *but having seen them afar off*
 - *were assured of them,*
 - *embraced them*
 - *and confessed that they were*
 - *strangers and pilgrims*
on the earth.
- (Hebrews 11:13-16).

- Jesus says in Matthew 6:20,
*“but lay up for yourselves
treasures in heaven, where
neither moth nor rust destroys
and where thieves do not break
in and steal.”*
- What are these treasures
Jesus is talking about?

- First Peter 1:3-6 states:
 - *an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away,*
 - *reserved in heaven for you,*

- **What an awesome thing to know** that as believers our inheritance is waiting for us, that as children of God, we will inherit eternity!
- Those who strive to store up treasures here on earth will be disappointed because **those treasures** **will only pass away.**

- The greatest of these treasures is that we can enter eternity fully pardoned and set free from the bondage of sin because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

- Romans 8:1

There is therefore now
no condemnation
to them which are in Christ
Jesus, who walk not
after the flesh,
but after the Spirit.

- So the question arises,
“How do we lay up treasures in heaven?”
- By **living** the way God has asked us to live.
 - **Loving** your neighbor as yourself
 - **Honoring** God in your marriage,
 - **Guarding** your mind.
- **Loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving your neighbor as yourself.**

- **Worldly-mindedness** is as common and as fatal a symptom of hypocrisy as any other.
- We easily see the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisee **but fail to see it in our own lives.**
- Christ, having warned us against coveting the praise of men, **proceeds next to warn us against coveting the wealth of the world.**

- In order to do that Christ exhorts us to take an eye exam.
- How is your vision?

- **How Is Your Vision?**

- ***“The lamp of the body is the eye.***
- ***If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.***
- ***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!”***
(Matthew 6:22-23).

- Gathering up riches on earth **distorts our vision.**
- Causing us to not see God as clearly as we once did.
 - Like **cataracts** it may take years to form.

- Example 1
- Ananias and Sapphira
Sold a possession,
brought the money
to the apostles,
and laid it at their feet.
 - (Acts 5:1-11))

- When they brought their money to the apostles, Ananias and Sapphira lied, saying they had brought all the money they had made from selling this possession.
 - But in fact, they had kept back some for themselves.
- Peter accuses Ananias of lying to God, and at that moment, Ananias falls to his death.
- The same thing happens to his wife, who also lies to God about how much they had received for the possession.
 - Why did this happen?

- Apparently desiring the praise of men and wanting to look spiritual, unknowingly, they staked their lives on the deception.
- They thought they might serve both God and mammon.
(Matthew 6:24)
- How easily we fall for this one.

- Example 2

- **The Parable of the Rich Fool**

He decides to tear down his old barns and build newer, bigger barns.

(Luke 12:13-21).

- In this parable, Jesus makes **a profound statement** we all should listen to very carefully.

- Verse 15

“one’s life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses.”

- Then after he is done, he decides to retire, so to speak, thinking that he has enough stored up to last many years.
- Now he can sit back, relax, and take it easy.
- What happens?
- God calls him “a fool” and says that his life is required of him that day.

- Jesus completes this parable by saying,
“So is he who
lays up treasure
for himself,
and is not rich
toward God.”

- Why does Jesus come at this same point **from two different angles?**
- 1st a warning about our **treasures.**
 - 2nd a warning about our **eyes.**
- It is a malady that effects every living soul.
 - Like cataracts it lies **lurking in the background ready to strike.**
- You may go through life with perfect vision **only to discover one day** that your eyesight is getting dim.

- It is not the Lord's desire to deprive us of any treasure but to guide us in pursuit of the best treasure.
- Remember the game we played as kids called "I spy!"
 - We would say: "You're getting colder or hotter."
 - Jesus is in like manner pointing us in the right direction.

- There are treasures in heaven, as sure as there are on this earth.
 - The problem is that we live in a society of instant gratification.
- And it is that “instant” thing that blinds us.

- You may say that my spiritual eye sight is just fine.
- So Jesus sensing that gives another warning:
 - The good eye: Matthew 6:22 (KJV)
 - *The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*
 - The evil eye: Matthew 6:23 (KJV)
 - *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

- Then to sum up His point
Jesus says:

- Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

**Ye cannot serve
God and mammon.**

- Whatever is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, is mammon.

- God says,

"Be content with such things as ye have."

(Philippians 4:11)

- Mammon says,

"Grab all you can as you only go around once."

(Belzebub 1:1)

- Are
you
listening?

**Doors of the church
are open.**

Spirit & Bride Say

“Come”

Revelation 22:17

- 05-21-2017 Tryon, NC

