



## “TREASURES IN HEAVEN”

Series: “LIVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT”, Part 14 of 19

Sunday, September 10, 2023, at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Matthew 6:19-24

**Big Idea: What begins as our treasure ultimately becomes our master.**

Matthew 6:19-24, Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

### I. WHAT WAS JESUS NOT FORBIDDING?

#### A. Jesus is NOT banning the possession of material things.

Dallas Willard says: “Instead of recognizing their responsibility to help others with the goods at their disposal, they are haunted by the more radical thought that their service to God would be better if they were poor. Or at least if they owned nothing beyond what is required to meet their daily needs. They are troubled by the idea that the very possession of surplus goods or money is evil. Stewardship, which requires possessions and includes giving, is the true spiritual discipline in relation to wealth. Being poor is one of the poorest ways to help the poor.”

#### B. Jesus does NOT forbid the practice of saving for the future and preparing for future “dry seasons.”

Proverbs 6:6-8, “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”

1 Timothy 5:8, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

2 Corinthians 12:14b, "After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children."

Proverbs 13:11, Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.

**C. Jesus does NOT forbid the enjoyment of the good things our heavenly Father provides.**

1 Timothy 6:17b, "...who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

**II. WHAT IS JESUS ACTUALLY PROHIBITING?**

He is clearly prohibiting the selfish accumulation of goods, while being oblivious to God's Kingdom cause or the good of others.

**III. WHY DOES JESUS WARN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF MATERIALISM?**

**A. Material things can easily become our master.**

Colossians 3:1-2, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Luke 12:15, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

**B. Material things can easily consume us.**

1 Timothy 6:6-9, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction."

Matthew 6:24, No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

#### **IV. HOW DO WE STORE UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN?**

1 Timothy 6:17-19, Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

##### **A. Be Humble.**

1 Timothy 6:17a, "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant."

##### **B. Put your hope in God.**

1 Timothy 6:17b, "Nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God."

##### **C. Do Good Deeds.**

1 Timothy 6:18a, "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds."

Mark 9:41, "I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward."

##### **D. Be Generous.**

1 Timothy 6:18b, "Be generous and willing to share."