



Growth Group Questions
October 15, 2023
“What Do You Treasure”

Context

In Matthew 6:19-24 we see that there are two treasures (earthly and heavenly), two bodily conditions (light and darkness) and two masters (God and money). Jesus tells his followers that there are some choices they will have to make if they want to continue to walk in his way.

Jesus concern is not just with the idea of “treasure or money.” His concern is with the impact that money or treasure can have on our lives. In fact, Jesus speaks more about money and possessions than anything else, except for the kingdom of God. He is fully aware of what our “treasures” can do to us. That is why he makes the statement that wherever our treasure is, our heart will follow. We tend to think that our money follows our heart and we give to what we love. Jesus says the opposite. Your heart follows whatever you “treasure.”

Jesus moves from there to talk about our eyes. He does it with the imagery of light and darkness, but there is also another subtle statement that he is making in verses 22-23. The word for healthy in verse 22 has the connotation of generosity, and the word for unhealthy in verse 23 has the connotation of stinginess. In these few verses Jesus is also talking about generosity. If our eyes guide us in how to walk in generous ways we will be healthy. However, if our eyes don’t take us down paths of generosity, we will not be healthy and we will find ourselves in darkness.

At the end of this section Jesus says you cannot serve two masters. The word mammon is used which is actually an Aramaic word for property. Inherently, it has no evil connotations. However, as Jesus uses the word, it takes on a spiritual, almost personal force, that has the power to draw us into its service, rather than us serving Jesus.

In the end, all of us have to make a choice about our treasures and possessions and money. Will they be the god of our lives or will God be lord over our lives? His followers will need to wrestle with whom they will serve.



Scripture and Quotes:

Matthew 6:19-24

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Psalms 119:36-37

³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.

³⁷ Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.^[a]

Matthew 19:16-22

¹⁶ Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

¹⁷“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸“Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’” ²⁰“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” ²¹ Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Revelation 2:1-5

¹“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place

St. Augustine: “God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them.



Question:

1. Matthew 6:19-24 includes three major ideas. In verses 19-21, Jesus speaks about how and where we should build up and store our treasures. What treasures do you think Jesus was talking about?
2. How do we store up treasures in Heaven?
3. In the second part of this week's scripture reading, Jesus talks about the eye as the "lamp of the body." (verses 22-23) What does He mean by that? How does this concept relate to how and where we store up our treasures?
4. In the third part of this week's scripture reading (verse 24), Jesus tells us that "No one can serve two masters." What does that mean to you? How does that relate to the first two parts of our scripture reading?
5. Pastor Paul said that often to invest, we must first divest. What does that mean to you in relation to the topic of this week's sermon?
6. How do you define generosity?
7. What does the Bible say about generosity?
8. Pastor Paul said we need to learn to live a generous life. Do you think giving generously is the same thing as living generously? Can we give generously without living generously?
9. What do you think is the key to living a generous life?
10. St. Augustine said: "God I always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them." What can we do to empty our hands of worldly things so that we can receive God's blessings?

