



Exploring the Kingdom of God in Matthew:
Laying up Heavenly Treasures!
February 11, 2018

Text: Matthew 6:19-21

UNDERSTANDING THESE VERSES:

1. If we take the whole counsel of God into account, what Jesus seems to be condemning is placing an inordinate amount of **value** on temporary things.
2. The key seems to be in the word "Treasure."
3. When we think of treasure we think of a chest filled with gold and jewels. But in this context, treasure is more than physical items to which we assign monetary value; treasure is a word that describes the inclinations and **affections** of the heart.
4. In another place, our LORD said, *"A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."* Mat 12:35-37
5. What our LORD seems to be correcting is our sinful propensity to love money and **trust** in uncertain riches! (Prov 11:28; 1 Tim 6:6-11, 17)
6. Friends, we serve what we **love**. Idolatry in any form is sin. We must never make an idol out of things! (Lk 16:13)
7. Instead, Jesus wants us to be faithful with the lesser treasure (we call this **stewardship**) but yearn for and seek after true riches! (Lk 16:10-11)
8. Surely counted among "true riches" are those Kingdom character traits we've been discussing from the *Sermon on the Mount*: meekness, mercy, purity of heart, forgiveness, love..even for your enemies, care with Scripture, obedience, prayer, self-discipline, etc.

LET US BE CAREFUL HERE!

- Those with wealth (that's most of us from a global perspective) must be VERY careful.
- Why? Because, *"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."* (Luke 12:48b)
- Scripture declares:

Mat 19:23-24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

- You might recall the context of these verses. Jesus had just met a “rich, young ruler” who asked Him, “Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” (Matt 19:16)
- After attempting to help the young man understand his sin and lawbreaking and need for grace (a lesson that went right over his head, Matt 19:17-20), Jesus exposed the man’s idolatrous heart by calling him to give away all his riches to the poor. (Matt 19:21)
- Of course, he refused and “went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.” He worshipped the **provision** rather than the **Provider**, and Jesus called him out!
- *With wealth comes not only responsibility, but also the very real danger of loving it, trusting it, and worshipping it. LORD forbid!*

SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

1. **Again, we must never make money our primary Focus! (Matt 6:20-21)**

- When it comes to money, our economic focus should be centered on **eternity** as well, using resources to advance the Kingdom and prepare the way for generations to be raised up in the fear and admonition of the LORD!

2. **Biblically we must see wealth as a **Tool** NOT our Treasure! (Deut 8:17-18)**

- *Remember that the people of God have been given a holy mandate:*

The Dominion Mandate is the command to establish the rule of Jesus Christ in all areas and jurisdictions of life (the Family, the Church, and the State); the intentional expansion of His Kingdom by His subjects, the preaching of the Gospel, the discipling of hearts, and the raising up of godly generations that declare, “Your Kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

3. **We must be careful that Saving doesn’t become Hoarding! (Lk 12:16-21)**

- “The difference between saving and hoarding is attitude.” -Dave Ramsey

4. **We must manage what wealth we have for God’s glory!**

- Remember the *Steward’s Revelation*: “The earth is the LORD’s, and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein.” (Ps 24:1)
- Stewards must not be wasteful but faithful! We will give an account of our stewardship! (Lk 16:1-2; 1 Cor 4:2)

5. **We must be **Generous**!**

- In Scripture, wealthy people are commanded to be generous. Here it is again from the NLT:

1Ti 6:17-18 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.

- **Giving** is a great and biblical *antidote* to selfishness and stinginess. May your wealth never become your “strong city!” (Prov 18:11; Ps 49:6-9; Prov 23:4-5)

APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION (BUILDING UP) AND ENCOURAGEMENT

(ROM 14:19; EPH 4:9; 1 THES 5:11; JUDE 1:20)

1. Money is important, but it isn't God! Discuss with your family the all-too-easy trap of loving wealth and possessions.
2. Discuss the possible meanings of this important verse:

Pro 13:7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

3. Consider the “antidote” we mentioned. Giving makes one hold on to wealth loosely. How's your giving?
4. We believe Scripture encourages us to save, but never to hoard. Discuss ways you can distinguish between the two and avoid the hoarding trap!