

What and Where is Your Treasure

Matthew 6:19-21



- **Identifying Your Treasures:**

- If you were asked to list the five most important things in your life right now? What would they be?

- What did you list? Relationships, possessions or...?



- If you lived in a foreign country where a civil war suddenly erupted, what three possessions would you take with you if you had to leave right away?
 - If your home or dormitory were on fire, what items would you rescue before exiting?

- **Everyone Has Treasures:**

- The implication is that everyone has some treasure – even the poor have it. The reason Christ did not exclude anyone from the matter of treasures is because treasures consist more in the affections of the heart than in what one can hold in his hands.
- Thus, every human being—regardless of their age, status, gender, ethnicity, educational background, etc.—considers some things as very valuable. So, the question to all of us—including our young people, is: **What is and where are your treasures?**



- **What Are Treasures?**

- Matthew 6:21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
NLT

- I know the particular application people think about is simply in terms of money or possession.

- But treasures may be tangible or intangible.
 - A treasure is that upon which you place your affections and attention. It may be your money, possessions, reputation, honor, praise, relationship, degree, or time.



- In Matthew 6, one of the main points, if not the main point, is our relationship as Christians 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, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 26, 32). Our relationship to the Father as His children is the most remarkable and incredible relationship.
- **Jesus’ words contain the absolute secret of passion in everything.**



Matthew 6:21 - *Wherever you are depositing the treasures of your life, your passion will be there also.*

– Jesus knew if His disciples were investing their lives in worldly things they would lose their focus and passion for Him. So, He wisely exhorted them to lay up their treasures in Heaven. He did this because He knew an important truth:

– **You cannot separate your treasures from your passions.**

– In other words, you will always be most passionate about the people, pursuits, and places where you are investing the best of your life. **Your passions will always follow the investments of your time, energy, resources, and strengths.**



- **What are our passions revealing about our treasures?**

- Where are you investing the best of your time, energy, and strengths?

- God, Spouse, Family, Body of Christ, Friends, etc...

- What are you investing your time in?

- With the Lord?
- With your spouse?
- With your family?

- What are you investing your resources in?



• The Treasures to Treasure:

- The kind of treasure to treasure is determined by its ultimate destiny. Notice that Jesus explains only two destinies for our treasures: “on earth” and “in heaven.”
- The first one, “treasures on earth,” is centered on the earthly or that which finds its value only in relationship to the world. It points to the transitory, the things that will pass away.
- On the other hand, “treasures in heaven” cannot be affected by any act of sin or consequence of the fall. They point to those things that have a lasting value, that transcend the grave and remain forever.



“The treasure laid up in heaven is imperishable. No fire or flood can destroy it, no thief can steal it, no moth or rust corrupt it; for it is in the keeping of God.

- **Jesus Not Opposed to Treasures:**

- When Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...", does it mean that it is wrong for Christians to own or possess things in this world?
- But Jesus is not condemning possessions or ownership or even enjoying what God has provided you in life. Nor is He forbidding Christians to save and store up resources for future needs.
- The Bible commends this practice by using the example of the ant wisely working to gather food for the future (Proverbs 6:6-11). Neglecting providing for one's family is equal to infidelity according to Paul (1 Timothy 5:8).

- Treasures are not necessarily evil in themselves. What Jesus was warning against is the improper value that we place on the treasures. It is that which so ties us to the world that we risk losing eternal life. It is our affection to these things that give treasures wrong values.



- **Scriptures about real treasure**

- **Proverbs 21:1-8**
- **Isaiah 33:5-6**
- **Luke 12:20-21**
- **2 Corinthians 4:7**
- **1 Timothy 6:17-19**
- **2 Timothy 1:13-14**



- **You choose what and where your treasures are!**

- When Jesus twice urges us to “lay up for yourselves treasures,” the reflexive pronoun (“yourselves”) implies a choice at the personal level. No one can make that choice for another; each one of us has to make it ourselves and be held accountable for it.
- There is no room for such excuses as: “I had no choice,” “I was forced against my will,” “I was born that way,” “the devil made me do it,” “my environment or genes made me do it,” and so on.



- The decisive question is: What treasures are we choosing? Are we making efforts towards developing Christlike character?
- “The things we hold dear—our treasures—determine the amount of time, energy, and resources we devote to them. If we value our looks, education, grades, jobs, position, or relationships, those things become number one in our life.

- Remember 11 times in Matthew 6 –
YOUR FATHER

