

**PP The King and His Kingdom-The Commands for a Disciple of Christ**  
**Part 24-Matthew 6:19-24** **7/29-30/2017**

Illus William Wise of Tennessee, was buried in 1960 with his horse, best hunting dog and a sword. He was sure he would go to hell, and determined to track down the devil and kill him. Then you have the oil socialite, Sandra West, buried behind the steering wheel of her Ferrari, intent, she said on driving right through the pearly gates. Or Frank Sinatra buried with a flask of Jack Daniels and a pack of Camels cigarettes.

But, as they say, you don't see hearses pulling U-Haul trailers  
 You can't take it with you, but, you can send it ahead, and this is what we are about to learn

**PP Two Treasures (6:19-21)**

***'Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven'*** **6:19-20**

Jesus gave two commands here, a negative and positive: *Do not lay up for yourselves treasure here on earth, but do lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven*

The bible devotes over 2,000 verses on how we should handle possessions

In fact, 16 of the 38 parables Jesus gave in the NT are on this subject

He talked about money 5 times more than He talked about any other subject in the Bible.

But what does He mean by ***'lay up treasures'***?

**PP** Look at what the Greek word for ***'treasures'*** is...*thēsauros*

A thesaurus is a storehouse of words, and the word was used to picture stacking or laying out coins horizontally

**PP** But notice the Greek word that is translated ***'lay up'***, *thēsauroizō*

Same root word...except ***'lay up'*** is a verb and ***'treasures'*** is a noun

Simply put, He preached, *Do not treasure this world's treasures for yourself*

Don't stockpile monies and possessions for your own purposes

Neither Jesus or the bible has a problem with savings accounts, retirements or nice things

**PP Proverbs 21:20** tells us ***"Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it."***

**PP** Or, ***"By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."*** **Proverbs 24:3-4**

What Jesus forbids for His disciples is stockpiling things for our own selfish reasons

It is the pursuit of treasure, the wrapping of life around it, and hoarding it that He condemns

**PP "Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist."** **Proverbs 23:4**

And Jesus gives us the reasons to not stockpile ***'on earth'***, it's ***'where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal'*** **6:19**

Wealth in biblical times was often measured in 3 commodities: clothing, grain, precious metal  
 Remember the leper Naaman from Syria who offered 10 changes of clothes to be healed?

Or when Samson promised 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes to solve his riddle

**PP** Clothes were one way wealth was measured in the bible, but there was a problem...moths

The best cloth was wool, which was especially vulnerable to moths who love to eat the fabric

And here is the point...moths never eat what you are wearing and using, only what you store

Even moths have a divine purpose, to prevent us from hoarding and stock-piled clothes

**PP** The second way wealth was measured was in *grain*

Many of our bibles in these verses have a footnote for the word '*rust*', that says *worm*

The word nowhere in the bible means rust, it means *eating* or *consuming*

The threats with granaries were rodents, worms, insects and rot

Again, the threat is not for the basket holding daily grain for food, but in excessive storehouses

**PP** Then there is the third way wealth was measured...gold and precious metals, which were especially susceptible to '*thieves*' who '*break in and steal*'

Often people in biblical times would dig a hole in the dirt floor of their homes to hide their coins, precious metals and jewels

Their homes were usually built out of clay and earth, and if a thief wanted in, he would '*break in*' by simply digging right through the wall with an axe and shovel

The threat once again is for that which is stockpiled, even though hidden

Each of these-moths, rust, thieves-prove that stockpiled possessions are vulnerable commodities: we hoard them and we run the risk of losing them

Do our banking in heaven, and we discover what the martyred Jim Elliot once taught:

**PP** "*He is no fool to give what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose*"

Suddenly Jesus does what He has been doing the entire sermon, uncovering our heart motives

***"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*** **6:21**

And that is where this great sermon begins to do the deep work of transformation

### **PP Two Perspectives (6:22-23)**

***"The eye is the lamp of the body."***

Jesus said that where our treasure is our hearts will be also, and here He calls the heart the '*eye*'

The '*eye*' or heart is the control center for a person, which directly produces our thoughts, our feelings and our wills

The moment a person trusts in Jesus for salvation, God performs a spiritual heart transplant, giving a new heart that begins to have the mind of Christ, the joy of salvation, and obedience

The believer lives with a new motivation, one that is in accord with the purposes of God

***"So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"*** **22-23**

Remember that Jesus is speaking to His disciples, not unbelievers

It is an unfortunate possibility for us Christians to have a new '*eye*' or heart, that is unhealthy, producing a warped, selfish perspective

And with an unhealthy eye, I will look at this world's products as able to bring me happiness, security and purpose

To view treasure with the right perspective, the eye of the heart must be *'healthy'*, a word that other translations offer as *'single'*

In other words, a healthy eye is single-mindedness, focusing on God and His kingdom with our earthly treasures being generous to others

*'If your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.'*

An evil eye in Scripture was an eye of hoarding and selfishness and coveting

**PP** *"A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth..."* **Proverbs 28:22**

It produces double vision, focusing on God and earthly possessions at the same time

The condition of our eye, our heart determines whether we live for earth or heaven

With a healthy eye, I will see my house as God's means to enjoy family and meet others' needs

A place where the hope of Jesus Christ can be shared with friends and family

A healthy eye, a redemptive perspective will view my paycheck as God's provision for my family's needs, His blessing for enjoyable things, but also the means to further the work of the gospel around the world

Remember that the entire sermon is to show that the righteousness of Christ's disciples must surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees...a righteousness coming from a heart made new in Christ

The Pharisees clamored after wealth and possessions for their own benefit, but those who follow Jesus must see what God has given is to be enjoyed not only by them, but by others

The disciples of Jesus must have a single-minded heart, focused clearly on eternity, laying up treasures there by having a generous motivation fills our souls with joy

**PP** This is why Hudson Taylor said, *"The less I spent on myself and the more I gave to others, the fuller of happiness and blessing did my soul become."*

How terrible it is when *'the light that is in you is darkness'*

It will shipwreck disciples, render them useless in the kingdom of God, slaves to money

### **PP** Two Masters (6:24)

*"No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money."* **6:24**

The Sermon on the Mount, in its entirety aims at our hearts, the control center of all our living!

The ancient Assyrians had a superstition that if a demon saw itself in a mirror, it would fly away

The idea was that the demon's ugliness would cause it to flee

Christ's sermon here graciously serves as a warning and a promise, a mirror to see into our hearts

Jesus is showing us what is potentially in our hearts...a treasuring of this world's things

And if we see that...flee to the cross, which alone has the power to set our eyes on things above, and change our hearts and change your investment strategy by giving ahead

God is not like Tolkien's dragon, Smaug, hoarding vast piles of gold in Dwarvish mountains

He already owns all wealth, what we give cannot add to His overwhelming riches and power

He isn't telling us to lay up treasures in heaven for His sake, but for ours

And his warning is this: stockpiling more than we can use, treasuring this earth's treasures, will enslave a person

**PP** *"Where riches hold the dominion of the heart, God has lost His authority."* John Calvin

If God begins putting it on your heart, maybe even during this sermon, to give more, to give sacrificially and you feel that familiar tug of war, maybe even resentment, have you ever really thought on that?

There are two competing masters, and money promises much but cannot deliver on either side of the grave

God promises, give generously, you will have what you need here, and more than you ever imagined in eternity

The money master tells you that giving generously is divesting, God tells you it is investing

Money master tells us to stockpile, your future is uncertain, but God tells you to give generously, He will take care of all you need and your eternal future is glorious

If we begin to devote ourselves to money, pursuing it, we will despise God, regarding Him little

But if we devote ourselves to God, then we regard money properly and give it generously

That whom you worship will be your master, and it will completely determine your life

How difficult it is to have money and prevent your money from having you!

The disciple of Jesus must learn to give generously, investing forward, and laying up treasures for eternity

**PP** But let me finally answer an important question: *How we can lay up treasures in heaven?*

Listen to what Paul tells young Timothy: *“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not*

**PP** *to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”*

**1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Friends, we can send treasures ahead of us by giving generously to God’s kingdom

The key is in the words of Jesus about the indestructibility of investing in heavenly treasures

Nothing of this earth’s material will last forever

We lay up treasures in heaven by investing in what is indestructible and the only two things that will last forever on this earth, are people, and the Word of God

**PP** *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”* **Matthew 24:35**

**PP** *“And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”* **Matthew 10:42**

We lay up treasures in heaven when our giving is attached to people and God’s Word

**PP** *“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.”* **Proverbs 19:17**

**PP** *“I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.”* Martin Luther

And nowhere will your giving be a better investment than getting God’s Word to people, be it a missionary, a Christian college, a church, a ministry

Christian, trust God, give generously, and lay up treasures in eternity

Amen?

Pray