

Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Treasure

Sunday, October 30/22 --- Matthew 6:19 – 24

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19 – 21

Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected.... God gave Israel manna every day. If they kept any of it until the next day, it went bad. In the same way, the disciple must receive his portion from God every day. If he stores it up as a permanent possession, he spoils not only the gift, but himself as well. If he sets his heart on his accumulated wealth it makes a barrier between himself and God. Where our treasure is, there is our trust... our God. Hoarding is idolatry.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

There are 'deep idols' within the heart beneath the more concrete and visible 'surface idols' that we serve. Each deep idol – power, approval, comfort, or control – generates a different set of fears and hopes. Surface idols are things such as money, our spouse, or children, through which our deep idols seek fulfillment. We are often superficial in the analysis of our idol structures.

Timothy Keller, Counterfeit Gods

1. Two Treasures to Live For: Choose One (6:19 – 21)

2. Two Realities to Look At: Choose One (6:22 – 23)

3. Two Masters to Love and Serve: Choose One (6:24)

Kingdom Treasure (Mt. 6:19 – 24)

Discussion Question:

Money is a great servant, but a terrible master. If you value it too much it will boss you around, and Jesus will not be able to lead you as Lord. You must get your priorities right, starting with healthy vision (6:22). What you set your eyes on has a lot to do with what your heart treasures.

(1 Jn 2:15 – 17).

- *Do you think you are too materialistic? When you look back on your life in 10 years will you be glad about the way you spent your time and money?*
- *What does your lifestyle tell others about what you treasure most?*

Challenge:

This week ask someone who knows you well what priorities they see you living by. Then discuss with them how you might adjust your life to be more in line with God's priorities for you. Perhaps you could take steps together in this.