

Matthew's Gospel "The Sermon On The Mount"
"True Treasure"
Matthew 6:19-24
Part 34

Eighty million families in the United States would tell you that they are in financial trouble, after about 50 years of almost unparalleled prosperity. (Ron Blue & Co.)

Incomes have gone up 9 to 10 times in the last 20 years and giving has gone down about 50 percent. (Ron Blue & Co.)

Ninety-six percent of evangelical giving is given out of income and only 4 percent is given out of net worth. (Ron Blue & Co.)

As of 2000, 17 percent of Americans claim to tithe, while only 6 percent actually do so. (Barna Research Ltd.)

The two groups in the United States that give the highest percentages of their income are the poor (those making less than \$20,000 per year) and the rich (those making more than \$100,000 per year). Middle-class Americans are the smallest percentage givers. (Christianity Today)

The average household pays \$83.33 in credit card interest per month.

On average, the typical credit card purchase is 112% higher than if using cash.

More than 40% of American families spend more than they earn. (Federal Reserve).

Americans' average credit card debt is \$8400 per household.

An \$8,000 debt, at a rate of 18% interest, will take over 25 years to pay off and cost more than \$24,000 in the long run.

Matthew 6:1-18 Christian Devotion: Jesus speaks about the Christian in private.

- Giving -
- Prayer -
- Fasting -

Matthew 6:19-34 Christian Ambition: Jesus now speaks about the Christian in Public.

We will look at 4 areas in our study:

1. Verses – 19-20 The Durability Test:
2. Verse - 21 The Heart Test:
3. Verses – 22-23 The Eye Test:
4. Verse – 24 The Master Test:

1. Verses – 19-20 The Durability Test:

Matthew 6:19

1. Poverty Theology:
Matthew 19:16-22
2. Prosperity Theology:
3. Proper Theology:

"Do not lay up" this command is in the present tense. It literally means to "stop storing up."

He is speaking about "over indulgence, luxuriousness...things becoming the object of our life's affection."

The key lies in the little phrase, "for yourselves." Jesus is "forbidding the selfish, self-centered accumulating of goods as the major end of life."

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth", The word Treasures - literally "to stack flat, to pile up, to store"

People treasured 3 basic commodities in Jesus Day.

1. They Treasured Garments.
2. They Treasured Grain.
3. They Treasured Gold and Silver.

The Durability Test:

Decay: where moth and rust destroy, The term rust – “to be eaten” (Grain)

Disappear: and where thieves break in and steal. The term break in Literally “digging in” (Gold and silver)

- Job 27:16, 20
- Luke 12:15
- Matthew 6:20

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven

The Word of God –

People –

- 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
- John 6:27
- 1 Peter 1:4

2. Verse - 21 The Heart Test:

Matthew 6:21

Heart – We think of feelings, affections. No! The Bible teaches “the inner man, the core of our total being” The real person!

What do we treasure?

- What occupies our thoughts when we have nothing else to do?
- What do we fret about the most?
- Apart from our loved, what or who do we most dread losing?
- What are the things that we measure others by?
- What is it that we know we cannot be happy without?

3. Verses – 22-23 The Eye Test:

Matthew 6:22

The eye - God's Word often uses the eye to represent the attitudes of the mind. (Our thinking light and darkness)

Clear – "generous" James 1:5

1 Corinthians 2:12-16

Matthew 6:23

Bad – "evil, ungenerous heart"

Examples:

1. Lot, Abraham's Nephew - Gen. 13:8-18
2. Achan - Joshua 7:1-26
3. Gehazi - 2 Kings 5:20-27
4. Solomon - 1 Kings 11:1-13

4. Verse – 24 The Master Test:

Matthew 6:24

Mammon - root word meant, "to entrust, place in ones keeping," the word changed in its meaning as time went on. The word came to mean – "that which a man can trust, it had become a god."

Application:

1. The Durability Test.
2. The Heart Test.
3. The Mind Test.
4. The Master Test.