

## Matthew 6:19-24

### Introduction

#### I. Matthew 6:19-21

A. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth.”

1. What Jesus is *not* saying (Proverbs 6:6-11; 1 Tim. 5:8; 4:3-4; 6:17).
  
2. What Jesus IS saying – “What Jesus forbids His followers is the \_\_\_\_\_ of goods.” (Stott; cf. “Do not *lay up for yourselves.*”)
  
3. “Lay up”
  - a. Jesus is warning us against storing up \_\_\_\_\_ *than we* \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Luke 12:16-19, 21 – And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ... So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”
  - c. There is no way to apply this in a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ way.
  
4. “For yourselves”
  - a. When we store up *for ourselves* more than we need, then *by default*, we are being \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Example of the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-24.

B. “Where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal”

1. The fact is, earthly treasures never last \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 23:4-5; 27:24).

2. We have to expend a great deal of \_\_\_\_\_ just to make sure they last as long as they do!
3. In the end, even if we succeed in making some of our earthly treasures last a lifetime, then \_\_\_\_\_ die and the worm eats \_\_\_\_\_ and we leave all of our treasures to \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - a. Job 1:21 – Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return.
  - b. 1 Timothy 6:7 – We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.
  - c. Psalm 49:16-17 – Be not afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases. For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him.
  - d. Psalm 39:6 – Man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

C. “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

1. Sometimes we get hung up over \_\_\_\_\_ the treasure in heaven actually is.
2. But shouldn’t it be more than enough just to know that it’s treasure \_\_\_\_\_? ... That whatever the treasure is, it’s more \_\_\_\_\_ than any treasure on earth because it lasts \_\_\_\_\_?

D. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – We can’t have treasures stored up on earth and still set our hearts on the heavenly (see verse 24).

## II. Matthew 6:22-23

A. “The eye is the lamp of the body.”

1. This is a *figurative* way of speaking.
2. Apart from the “light” that our eyes “shed”, the rest of our body could only function in the darkness.

B. “So, if your eye is healthy... but if your eye is bad...”

1. A *good* eye means \_\_\_\_\_ for the *whole* body!
2. A *bad* eye means \_\_\_\_\_ for the *whole* body!
3. If then the very lamp of your body is darkness (if you are \_\_\_\_\_), how *great* is the darkness!

C. In the Bible, the eye symbolizes the heart and especially the \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart (Psalm 19:8; 36:1; Proverbs 21:4; 23:26)

1. Ecclesiastes 2:10 – And whatever my **eyes desired** I did not keep from them. I kept my **heart** from no pleasure.

2. Ezekiel 24:25 – On the day when I take from them their stronghold, their joy and glory, the **delight of their eyes** and their **soul's desire**...
3. 2 Peter 2:14 – They have **eyes full of adultery**, insatiable for sin... They have **hearts trained in greed**.

D. If the condition of the eye determines the condition of the whole body, we can say that the desires of our heart impact the course of our entire life.

1. If the desire of our heart is set upon the treasures of \_\_\_\_\_ then the course of our entire life will be lived in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's blessing and favor.
2. If the desire of our heart is set upon the treasures of this earth then the course of our entire life will be lived in the \_\_\_\_\_ of alienation and separation from God.
3. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 – But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

E. "If your eye is bad" – To say that someone has a "bad eye" is to say that he is \_\_\_\_\_ (he stores up money and possessions beyond his need).

1. Proverbs 28:22 – A stingy man [lit. "**a man whose eye is evil**"] hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.
2. Proverbs 23:6 – Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy [lit. "**whose eye is evil**"]; do not desire his delicacies.
3. Deuteronomy 15:9-10 – Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your **eye** look grudgingly [lit. "**be evil**"] on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin. You shall give to him freely, and your **heart** shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.
4. Matthew 20:15 – Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity? [lit. "**Is your eye bad** because I am good?"]

F. "If your eye is healthy [good]" – To say that someone has a good eye is to say that he is \_\_\_\_\_ (He gives away his excess in order to meet the needs of those who have less.)

1. Deuteronomy 15:9-10 – Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your **eye** look grudgingly [lit. "**be evil**"] on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin. You shall give to him freely, and your **heart** shall not be grudging

when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

2. Proverbs 22:9 – Whoever has a bountiful [lit. “good”] eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.
3. “A good eye yieldeth one out of forty... A middling eye, one out of fifty... And an evil eye, one out of sixty.” (Mishnah; Terumot 4:3; Morris)

G. The way to make sure that we are not walking in the darkness and that our hearts are not set on the treasures of this earth is to be generous and \_\_\_\_\_ the excess of our earthly treasures.

1. Matthew 19:21-22 – Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
2. General Principle – God gives us wealth and resources for two reasons: to meet \_\_\_\_\_ needs and then to meet the needs of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 – For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”
4. 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8-11 – Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.
5. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 – As for the rich in this present age, charge them not 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.
6. Matthew 6:11 – “Give us this day our daily bread”
7. 1 Timothy 6:7-8 – If we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

### III. Matthew 6:24 – Conclusion

- A. **Jesus tells us that it is \_\_\_\_\_ to lay up for ourselves both treasures on earth and treasures in heaven.**
- B. Materialism is a \_\_\_\_\_ enemy to the service of God.

## Teaching our Children

Q. Where should we *not* store up treasures for ourselves?

A. We should not store up for ourselves treasures on earth.

Q. This doesn't mean that we can't enjoy God's good gifts on this earth. It just means that we shouldn't store up for ourselves more than we ?????.

A. We shouldn't store up for ourselves more than we **need**.

Q. What happens to treasures on earth?

A. They can be destroyed, or stolen, or lost, or just get old and worn out, etc.

Help your children to see that their earthly treasures will not last forever.

Q. What does it mean in the Bible when someone has a healthy or good eye?

A. If someone has a good eye, it means that he is a generous person (he gives to the needy)

Q. What does it mean in the Bible when someone has a bad eye?

A. If someone has a bad eye, it means that he is a stingy person who stores up for himself more than he really needs.

Q. If someone has a bad eye (is stingy), then that person is walking in the ???????.

A. A stingy person who stores up treasure on the earth is walking in the **darkness** (he is walking in the path of sin).

Q. If someone has a good eye (is generous), then that person is walking in the ???????.

A. A generous person is walking in the **light** (he is walking in the path of righteousness and God will graciously reward him with treasure in heaven!)

Q. How do we store up treasure for ourselves in heaven?

A. We store up treasure for ourselves in heaven by using any (extra) earthly treasures that God gives us to meet the needs of others. (Discuss ways that you do this and ways that your children could do this; See Scriptures under II. G.)

Q. Can we store up for ourselves treasures on earth *and* treasures in heaven at the same time?

A. No. Because the way we *get* treasures in heaven is by giving away our "extra" treasures on earth.

We cannot serve both God and money/possessions. We must choose which one we will serve.