

As we begin this morning, don't forget the theme of the entire Sermon on the Mount from (5:20): "For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of heaven"

I believe this to be the greatest sermon ever preached because of who was preaching it. The Lord Jesus was now presenting Himself to Israel as their long-awaited and promised Messiah.

He taught His disciples and multitudes gathered to Him what "True Righteousness" looked like in the life of one that possessed it, in complete contrast to the substandard man-made righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, which is abhorrent to God. Little did they know that God had robed Himself in flesh and was now dwelling among them.

Jesus exposed what had become a dead religious system. Sadly enough, these religious tyrants give us a clear example of what happens to God's truth when lost men press themselves into gospel ministry.

The people of Israel had long existed under the tutelage and tyranny of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees, who made void the commandments of God by their traditions and made-up rules.

This is what happens beloved (even in our day) when men hold up a Bible and take upon themselves to preach the Word of God when they are blind to God's truth, who have eyes but they cannot see, and ears but they themselves cannot hear.

The Sermon on the Mount was a MAJOR rebuke to the scribes and Pharisees and a GIANT course correction for all who heard it.

As we begin reading, Jesus is now teaching the people how to and how NOT to live life in this present world as children of His Kingdom.

Text: Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:33-34

(V19-21): The Tale of Two Treasures:

The Lord Jesus just taught us (6:1-18) HOW we ought to do good/righteous deeds, how we ought to pray, and how we should fast as children of God; not for praise from others, but that we might please our heavenly Father.

NOW, the Lord Jesus warns of about the sin of worldly-mindedness, covetousness, desiring earthly wealth, VALUING or TREASURING earthly things the things of this world rather than on the things of God.

We all have treasures, don't we? You can always tell what someone treasures? We protect and keep our treasures, don't we? Things that we place a high value on; things that are precious to us. What are your treasures? Are they earthly treasures? Or are they heavenly?

Those who love the world and the things that are in the world "LAY UP" or store up and collect the world's treasures; they keep and guard them, they show them off and then they lock them up to keep them safe. What are YOUR treasures?

The devil is the god of this world! He wants you to be satisfied in his domain, in the world; he knows that, if he can satisfy you in the world, you will have no interest in heaven and the Kingdom of Christ.

If he can just keep you in "love with the world and the things that are in the world" he will keep you as one of his own children and followers (lost sinner); Christian, if he can influence you away from God and the things of God, he can bring you back to who you once were when you served him.

What are you LAYING UP, or gathering and amassing in your life? Where is your treasure? What are the things that are the MOST precious and valuable to you? This DEPENDS entirely upon your heart!

First: Don't lay-up or gather (for yourselves) earthly treasures; Second: But DO lay-up and gather (for yourselves) treasures in heaven!

The most important part of this text is (V21): "For where YOUR treasure is, there will YOUR heart be also"

Now is a good time for you to take inventory of your life to IDENTIFY YOUR TREASURES. Once YOU KNOW what/where your treasures are, THEN you will know where your heart is.

As we consider this text, keep in mind that the Lord Jesus is NOT saying that it's wrong to have wealth, a nice house, nice things, and earthly stuff; the fact is, every one of us have earthly things; we fair sumptuously every day.

It is NOT evil to have earthly things and stuff or even to be wealthy:

i. Genesis 13:1-2, 24:35, Job 1:1-3, Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

If you have wealth and lots of earthly stuff because you've worked hard and God has blessed you in your business, there is nothing wrong with that. But if you LOVE your earthly stuff and your wealth so much that you work and labor to gather up

more stuff in this world; (that my friend is what your heart is fix upon).

This is what Jesus is warning us about; falling in love with the things of this world; treasuring the things of this world rather than treasuring the things of God! 1 John 2:15-17

"A man's life consisteth NOT in the abundance of the things which he possesseth". Luke 12:13-21, 1 Timothy 6:7-11

To so many today in the world, IT'S all about earthly status, wealth, and having stuff! Get all that you can get in this life! Do you remember this quote from Malcolm Forbes: "He who dies with the most toys wins"?

"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish". They have so much in earthly treasure, but if they don't have Christ, they have NOTHING!

Psalm 49:16-20, Proverbs 23:4-5, Job 1:21

NOTHING of all of our earthly treasures and possessions will profit/accompany us when we die.

Psalm 49:6-8, Proverbs 11:4, Matthew 16:26

The only thing that will PROFIT you when you die are treasures that you laid up in heaven.

The issue is NOT having riches, wealth, and lots of stuff; the issue is, are they your treasures and what your heart yearns after? I thought of this quote and I'm pretty sure it's not mine: "Do you treasure your earthly treasures?"

EVERY earthly treasure is perishing, corrupting, rusting, liable to be stolen by thieves or eaten by moths or some treasure eating insect!

Are you hoarding and amassing THIS stuff for the sake of gaining status in the world? Are you so attached to CORRUPTIBLE WEALTH, and your ROTTING STUFF that you are loathe to part with it? Is your stuff everything to you?

Thomas Brooks rightly called the gold, silver, and the precious stones nothing more than the garbage and guts of the earth. Beloved, what is the intrinsic value of it to your soul?

Mark 10:17-27, Proverbs 11:24-26

(V20): "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal"

It all comes down to this: WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE? HERE? In this life? In this world? Or is YOUR TREASURE in HEAVEN? Where no thief can steal it from you, and where it cannot be lost! For it is kept in the presence of God, who remembers every single heavenly deposit!

Where is your heart? What do you love? This world and this life? Or do you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Remember, where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!

Think about that, WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO! BTW, what IS HEAVENLY TREASURE? How do you lay it up?

Adam Clarke: The only way to render perishing goods eternal, to secure stately furniture from moths, and the richest metals from canker, and precious stones from thieves, is to transmit them to heaven by acts of charity. This is a kind of bill of exchange which cannot fail of acceptance with Christ.

Matthew 6:3-4, 6, 17-18

Matthew 25:35-40, Proverbs 19:17, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Revelation 14:13

YOUR GREATEST TREASURE Christian is to be the Lord Jesus Christ!
Every sinner that has found Him is like the man in Matthew 13:44-46