

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, August 22, 2021**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 45. Treasures in Heaven – Matthew 6:19-24**

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Introduction: There are three main sources of temptation for the believer: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Christ has addressed the flesh and the devil in the three areas of righteous works to be performed for an audience of the Father alone, and not to be for men to see – giving, praying, and fasting, including instructions about dealing with the devil in the Lord’s prayer. These involve temptation that leads to self-righteousness. Now in the remainder of chapter 6, He includes our dealings with the world. We are told to beware loving the world (Mammon) and serving it instead of God, and to resist the temptation to worry about the circumstances and situations that arise as we live in the world. This morning we will look at the danger of being possessed by a love for the world, and in 2 weeks we will hear what He says about worry and anxiousness. In summary, Spurgeon says, “He calls His servants away from anxieties about this life to a restful faith in God.”

- I. Our Heart, Heaven, and Earth – vs. 19-21
  - A. Laying Up Treasures (vs. 19-20)
    1. Lay up – put aside for future use, store, deposit
    2. Treasure – that which is stored in a safe place
  - B. Earthly Treasures Do Not Last (vs. 19-20) – 2 Peter 3:10-13
    1. Things subject to decay – moth and rust
    2. Things subject to be taken by force or by fraud – theft
  - C. Heavenly Treasures Are Indestructible (vs. 19-20) – 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2 Cor. 4:16-18
    1. Seek things above – an eternal perspective – Col. 3:1-3
    2. God’s treasury boxes include: the church, its mission, widows, orphans, aged saints, and poor brethren – James 1:27; Matt. 25:31-40
  - D. Your Heart – Possessions and Possessing (vs. 21)
    1. Sojourners
      - a. All things are yours, and you are Christ’s – 1 Cor. 3:21-23
      - b. The world, and everything it is, is not ours....yet – Heb. 11:16; Matt. 5:5
      - c. The answer toward heavenly citizenship is not monasticism – we are to overcome the world while living in it
    2. Stewards
      - a. We will give an account to the true owner of all so do not have a “ruinous preoccupation with possessions” – JMB
      - b. Use what you have “while you are here in the world, that when you arrive in glory, the people who benefitted by it will be there to receive you” – MLJ – 1 Tim. 6:17-19
      - c. Not our possessions, but our attitude toward possessions, including honor, status, work, and wealth - MLJ
    3. Servants
      - a. “The heart must and will go in the direction of that which we count precious. The whole man will be transformed into the likeness of that for which he lives.” – CHS
      - b. “One day all earthly possessions will perish and will be gone forever, and since that is the case, a man who has spent his life accumulating them may himself be saved, but he will have nothing to show for what should have been a lifetime of profitable service.” JMB – 1 Cor. 3:12-15
  - E. Tests – Do Our Possessions Possess Us? – Matt. 19:21-30
    1. The Political Test – our view of possessions is seen in our vote
      - a. MLJ said that in our politics if we see one side as completely right, and the other as completely wrong, we are blind to the truth about fallen men and governments

- b. He also stated that we must examine our vote to see if we are voting to protect something (to keep it, fear of loss), or anxious to have something (to get it, covetousness)
    - 2. The Test of Emotions
      - a. How possessions make us feel?
      - b. Are the things we possess and pursuing making us feel bitterness, anger, scorn, or pride?
    - 3. The Test of Usefulness
      - a. Do we view things are useful, but not necessary?
      - b. What do we really need? – Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6; Heb. 13:5
- II. Our Eye, Light, and Darkness – vs. 22-23 – John 3:19
  - A. Good Eye
    - 1. “Motive is the eye of the soul.” – CHS
    - 2. A healthy eye means we see things clearly as they really are, with undistorted and unobscured vision
  - B. Bad Eye
    - 1. “If a man does not see things in a right light, he may live in sin and yet fancy that he is doing his duty.” – CHS
    - 2. “If our faith is presumption, our zeal selfishness, our prayer formality, our hope a delusion, our experience infatuation, the darkness is so great that even our Lord holds up His hands in astonishment and says, ‘How great is that darkness!’” – CHS
  - C. An Eye for God’s Glory – “Oh, for a single eye for God’s glory. This alone can fill my soul with light.” – CHS
- III. Our Master, God or Mammon – vs. 24
  - A. No Other Gods – Exodus 20:3 – we cannot serve God and the world – the two will never agree, so to follow one is to disobey the other – James 4:4
  - B. Mammon – to serve the world is ultimately to serve self – 1 John 2:15-17
    - 1. The wealth that one entrusts to another for safe keeping
    - 2. Later, that in which man trusts – “In God We Trust”
  - C. “They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods” – 2 Kings 17:24-41
  - D. “Live for this world, or the next; to live equally for both is impossible.” – CHS

## **Cross References**

### **2 Peter 3:10-13**

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

### **1 Peter 1:3-5**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

### **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

### **Colossians 3:1-3**

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

### **James 1:27**

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

### **Matthew 25:31-40**

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

### **1 Corinthians 3:21-23**

21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. 23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

### **Hebrews 11:16**

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

### **Matthew 5:5**

5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

### **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

### **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

### **Matthew 19:21-30**

21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." 27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" 28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

### **Philippians 4:11**

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

## **1 Timothy 6:6**

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

## **Hebrews 13:5**

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

## **John 3:19**

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

## **Exodus 20:3**

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

## **James 4:4**

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

## **1 John 2:15-17**

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

## **2 Kings 17:24-41**

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities. 25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. 26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land." 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land." 28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord. 29 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt. 30 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 32 So they feared the Lord, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods—according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel, 35 with whom the Lord had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them; 36 but the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice. 37 And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods. 38 And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. 39 But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies." 40 However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals. 41 So these nations feared the Lord, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.

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