

**Fix Your Eyes on Jesus' Warnings About Money: "No one can serve two masters."**

**Focus Passage: Matthew 6:19–24**

**Larger Context: The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–8)**

**Other Passages Referenced: Matthew 13:44–46**

**Comments to Group Leaders:**

- Last week's message about greed—pleonexia—from Luke's Gospel came from a passage with parallels to the Sermon on the Mount. There, Jesus was warning against greed in the context of not being like the Pharisees whom He had referred to as both hypocrites and greedy. Question 3 points to a similar context that was more explicit in Luke's Gospel. There is a parallel between "reward from your Father who is in heaven" (Matt 6:1) and "treasure in heaven" (Matt 6:20). In Matt 6:1, the treasure the people were seeking was "to be seen" practicing righteousness by others, which disqualified them from treasure in heaven. Giving conspicuously "that you may be praised by others" exchanges heavenly treasure for earthly treasure (Matt 6:2). However, faithful inconspicuous giving will be rewarded by the Father in heaven—heavenly treasure (Matt 6:4).

**Sermon Recap**

We are all treasure hunters of sorts. We dedicate ourselves to finding praise/affirmation, approval, social status, security, control, a sense of importance or other treasures we feel we lack. In Matt 6, Jesus has something to say about treasure hunting. Jesus taught His audience that they first needed to **see** what true treasure is (Matt 6:22–23). In the middle of a discussion about materialism, possessions, and greed, Jesus indicated that those vices were actually a problem of how we see things. "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness." We are all in danger of becoming blinded to our own materialism and not seeing what is truly important, the true treasure in heaven that we can enjoy forever.

We not only need to see the true heavenly treasure, but we need to **seek** that true treasure (Matt 6:19–21). Jesus called His followers to move beyond seeking to **servicing** heavenly treasure (Matt 6:24). Both God and materialism call us to dedicate our entire beings to serving them. You cannot serve both God and materialism at the same time.

As we saw last week in Luke 12, one way to break the power of materialism over us is to give generously. In the Old Testament, when the harvest began, the people would bring the best of their first fruits to the Temple/Tabernacle as an offering. The practice was an acknowledgement that all they had was from God. He was the great provider. He was their security. He was their livelihood. He was their treasure. They always gave first to God. But the people were also instructed to leave the corners of their fields unharvested so that the poor and downtrodden in the community could come and find food. They gave to God first and they also gave to the community. Are you giving the best of your first fruits to God? A tithe of 10% or more? Having 90% of our money God's way is better than having 100% our way. Are you also giving to the community?

Jesus is the greatest Treasure hunter of all, and He came to find us as His treasured possession. He paid everything He had to purchase us. We see, seek, and serve the true treasure because the true treasure has given His life in seeking us.

## Group Gathering

### Group Check-in — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.

### Allow the Word to Speak — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

#### READ Matt 6:19–24

1. What from the passage or sermon was most impactful to you?
2. Were you left with any questions or confusion about the passage or sermon?
3. How do you see Matt 6:19–24 relating to Matt 6:1–4 and the rest of chapter 6?
4. What was your initial reaction to Jesus bringing up, “the eye is the lamp of the body” sandwiched between teaching about material possessions?

### Put the Word into Practice — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Ask the LORD in prayer to open your eyes to see any blind spots about your own materialism and the power money and possessions may have over you. Write down whatever the Holy Spirit brings to mind.
2. Ask yourself and answer: “How am I investing in the Kingdom of God and heavenly treasures?”
3. Who are you investing in for God’s Kingdom? ... You might consider becoming a mentor, or if you aren’t prepared for that step, perhaps seeking out a mentor. Contact [dsouth@wcchapel.org](mailto:dsouth@wcchapel.org) for more info.
4. Who are you telling about Jesus? ... If you would like coaching on how to share your personal faith story or how to share the good news of the gospel in a way that invites others to faith, please contact [wwhite@wcchapel.org](mailto:wwhite@wcchapel.org).

**The Big Question:** What do you sense God’s Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

### What We Hope Members Glean from the Passage

1. No set answer.
2. No set answer.
3. There is a parallel between “reward from your Father who is in heaven” (Matt 6:1) and “treasure in heaven” (Matt 6:20). In Matt 6:1, the people treasured being seen practicing righteousness by others. Jesus said that disqualified them from treasure in heaven. Giving conspicuously “that you may be praised by others” exchanges heavenly treasure for earthly treasure (Matt 6:2). However, faithful inconspicuous giving will be rewarded by the Father in heaven—heavenly treasure (Matt 6:4).

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

- The Chapel will host the Community of Faith Mission’s homeless shelter from January 10 – 17. You may find more information and a sign-up [here](#).

**Further Resources** – Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of [www.wcchapel.org](http://www.wcchapel.org)