

Where your treasure is...

Text: Matt 6:19-34

By Bob Young

Introduction

Draw a picture of your treasure?

Do you know what God would draw? His people. He would draw you!

Our treasure is where we put our...

Preferences, position, desires, goals, ambitions, priorities,
These are a few of "my favorite things" (phrase from The Sound of Music)

God's treasure is his people.

This truth lies behind the fact that our Lord wants first place to be given to...

His...honor, word, desire, kingdom, will, communication, reasons, standards

This understanding explains what God is doing in this world, what he wants in this world: recognition, respect, response, reflection

Our treasure/heart can be easily understood: we concentrate on and guard that which we love/desire/live for/would die for.

The Bible is the revelation of God. Jesus is trying to tell his followers something about what God is like, by telling them what things look like in the kingdom.

The Sermon on the Mount is about God's will. A Simple Outline--

- 5a-Blessing and new identity for followers
- 5b-Fulfillment of law so that the true intent of God is seen rather than a weak legalism
- 6a-Intentional actions
- 6b-Seeking things of true value
- 7a-Seeing God and other correctly
- 7b-Making the right choices

The Sermon on the Mount tells us of the importance of doing God's will. If we do not obey the Father's will we are not His and are displeasing to him; we will be told to depart because he never knew us (7:21)

To grasp the meaning and power of this text, I ask the question: "Who has control of your life?"

The New Testament describes Jesus as Savior 18 times, as Lord over 600 times

If Jesus is Lord, he controls our life. He has all authority. He defines us, our values, our priorities, our desires/wants/will. I remember a sermon that Mitch Wilburn preached that said it this way: he controls our--

Time	Tiempo
Talents	Talentos
Treasures and things	Tesoros
Troubles and trials	Tentaciones, tribulaciones
Tribe (referring to relationships)	Tribu

You can think of other "Ts" to add to the list. Jesus controls our truth. This sermon asks about seeking the things of true value.

Three Word Pictures

YOUR BOSS

What about YOUR LOYALTY? Where will you invest YOUR TIME and YOUR TALENTS?

- Your boss controls your time and the use of your talents.
- Jesus taught about the impossibility of serving two masters [Matt. 6:24]
- A servant was not like a modern American who might hold down 2-3 jobs, but the possible parallel between master and employer may be helpful.

What servants/slaves dedicate to their master....

- All of their TIME, allegiance, loyalty, Rom. 6:16-17

- All of their TALENTS, abilities. Note the contrast between God and stuff
 - God is...the creator, the sustainer of the Universe, full of love and light
- All of their TREASURE/THINGS. I call this “stuff.” Mammon is...money, wealth, piling up things/possessions, accumulation of belongings, stuff
 - Constantly acquiring more and more can become an addiction
- Luke 12:15, Be on guard against all kinds of greed; life is not in abundance of possessions, you cannot serve two masters.

YOUR BANKER

The contrast -- earthly and heavenly storage places (so much stuff!) [Matt 6:19-21]

What about YOUR PRIORITIES? Where will you invest YOUR TREASURES/YOUR THINGS/YOUR STUFF?

The problem with storing up treasures here on earth

Moths destroy, as does rust

This world contains the things that are “basic”

The problem of thieves and robbery

We accumulate so much stuff that we have to build bigger barns.

The bigger barns of the 21st c. are garages that cannot hold our cars and rental storage units!

The advantage of storing up treasures in heaven is explained in 1 Pet. 1:3-4

An older man, questioned by IRS, “I sent it all on ahead.”

To store up treasures in heaven means one is rich in faith toward God (Jas 2:5)

1 Tim. 6:17-19 shows how the heavenly emphasis can become a spiritual reality

Because.... v 21, use the heavenly so our heart will follow.

YOUR BARRISTER

What about YOUR VALUES?

We seek help to control the relationships (TRIBE/TIES) of our life, we seek help in times of TROUBLE and TRIBULATION.

The contrast of light/dark, good/evil, generosity/stinginess [Matt. 6:22-23]

Attorneys help us with our values within the social system’s definitions of what is right.

We are to foster the good; the enlightened interior is the basis for a life that is lived out in the light and not in the darkness. (Rom. 13:11-13a)

Because v. 23, if Christians are stingy, how dark that is!

Conclusion

Col. 3:1-3. Is it really possible to do God’s will? Yes, we can do God’s will by having our heart—our time, talents, treasures, things, and ties—focused in heaven, not on earth.

- Where is your eye?
- Where are your affections?
- Where is your mind?
- Where is your heart?
- Where is your treasure?

If Jesus is Lord, he controls our life. He has all authority. He defines us, our values, priorities, desires/wants/will.

He controls:

Time

Talents

Treasures

Troubles/Trials

Tribe (relationships)

Jesus has authority. I can deny his authority by how I see my....

TROUBLES. Difficulties and problems come when I fail to have integrity

TIME/TALENTS. Not being used by him for others, not being an example, not being a link in the chain

TIES. Not helping others, not being a link in the chain

TREASURES. Believing that it is all for me and about me