

## Counter Culture "A Christian's Wealth and Ambition" - Matthew 6:19-34"

Matthew 6:19-34 - "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

### I. A Question of Treasure (vs. 19-21)

- A. What was Jesus prohibiting when he said do not store treasure on earth?
- not possessions or private property - nowhere in Scripture do we find that taught.
  - not on saving for a rainy day - Scripture praises the ant for storing up for the winter (Proverbs 6:6) and the Scripture condemns the believer who makes no provision for his family (1 Timothy 5:8).
  - not a prohibition on enjoying good things in life that God created and provides (1 Timothy 4:3-4; 6:17).

What then? Jesus forbids the selfish accumulation of things.

- B. What is treasure in heaven?  
To do anything on earth that's effect lasts for eternity.

### II. A Question of Vision (vs. 22-23)

The argument is like this: Just as the eye affects just about everything we do - every decision we make, so our ambition (where we fix the eyes of our heart) affects the WHOLE life.

### III. A Question of Worth (vs. 24)

Jesus now explains that behind the choice between the two treasures and the two visions (or what we set our heart on - our ambition), there lies even a more basic choice between two masters (whom we will serve). It is a choice between God and "mammon" in older translations - or "money, wealth."

Some people are sure that they have found a perfectly compatible compromise in serving both masters. There are several possible arrangements they see plausible.

- A. Serve God on Sundays and money on the rest of the week.
- B. Serve God with their lips but money with their hearts.
- C. Serve God in appearance but money in reality.
- D. Serve God with half their energy and money with the other half.

But Jesus declares these convenient compromises impossible. Anyone who tries to divide their allegiance between God and money has actually chosen one . . . money, for God can only be the master when He is chosen exclusively.

### IV. A Question of Ambition (vs. 25-34)

The words "For this reason" in verse 25 are extremely significant here as it is in human language all the time. Jesus is drawing a conclusion - all that He has said about the two treasures, the two visions and the two masters leads to this point.

When we choose heavenly treasure, and to set our heart or eyes on God and to serve Him only . . . then here is how we are to behave . . .

Vs. 25,33-34. - "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? . . . But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

- A. God's people are not to be driven by their own security but by God's rule and righteousness.

1. The world's ambition - to make the body and mind feel good.
2. Jesus just taught us a few verses ago to pray for our daily bread - what we actually need to be sustained - a far cry from what the world calls us to strive for. To become engrossed in material comforts is a false ambition.

- a. Unproductive -
- b. Unnecessary -
- c. Unworthy -