

Allure of Money

Not So Straight A's: Approval, Allure, Anxiety--part 3

Matthew 6:19-24

August 24, 2014

DAY 1: Love of money

Matthew 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."

1. Do you think Jesus is discouraging savings, investing, and insurance in this verse? Why or why not?

2. There are plenty of verses in the bible that encourage us to save, invest and plan ahead. (If you're interested read Prov. 6:6-11; 21:20; 22:3; 27:23-27, Matt. 25:14-30).

3. So, if these verses are *not* talking about saving, investing and insurance (prudence), what warning is Jesus giving us?

4. What do each of the following do to clothes, metal, and "stuff?"

a. Moths--

b. Rust--

c. Thieves--

5. What does Jesus mean by storing up treasures on earth?

6. Jesus warns us that it is possible to give ourselves to accumulating lots of stuff in the hopes of finding satisfaction, only to discover that stuff breaks, rusts, gets stolen, and *doesn't last*.

7. As we'll see this verse has more to do with where our heart's allegiance is. What is it we really believe will bring us satisfaction, contentment and meaning? On a scale of 1-100, how much are you basing your satisfaction and contentment on what money can buy?

8. Ask God to deepen your hope in Him for satisfaction and contentment, and not in money.

DAY 2: Love of giving!

Matthew 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."

1. Yesterday, we saw that setting our hopes in something finite, in things that won't last won't produce enough satisfaction or contentment.

2. Jesus gives us the alternative:

Matthew 6:20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

3. Jesus uses the same three illustrations to contrast the difference between putting money toward things of the earth versus storing up treasures in heaven. What are the effects of moth, rust and thieves toward heavenly investments?

4. We "store up treasures in heaven" when we give money to the Lord, and the purposes of the Lord.

a. How does that strike you?

b. Investments made on earth eventually go the way of moth and rust. But investments made in the things of the Lord continue to pay "dividends" long after we gave! How does that strike you?

c. When we give, we usually don't think about *us* enjoying the gift we've given. But Jesus gives us this paradox: What we give away *we* will be able to enjoy through all eternity. How does that effect your outlook regarding giving to the Lord?

5. What words would you use to describe your attitude toward giving to the Lord? Check all that apply:

Grudgingly With anticipation I wish I could give more

As a "duty" As a privilege I have been so blessed!

Because I "should" Wow!

It's the right thing to do I have a lot to look forward to!

Other: _____

DAY 3: Your heart

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

1. We rightly say that only God can change the human heart. True. But we do play a role, and here is one of the ways!

2. I believe this truth has two applications:

a. Where we invest our money ("treasure") has a cause and effect on our heart.

For example: you need to replace your old car. You could buy a 4-year old used car from a friend at a great price. You know the history of the car, and trust your friend. OR, you go to the new car dealership, set your eyes on the flashy, shiny paint job of the "car of your dreams" and are enamored. What is the effect on your heart of each? Why?

b. What we "treasure" (what we hold dearest) has a cause and effect on our heart.

Here's an example from Solomon's life:

Ecclesiastes 5:10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money; nor he who loves wealth, with gain: this also is vanity.

3. Solomon identifies two things we "love." What are they?

4. What effect does loving money have on the human heart?

5. The word "vanity," here, means "empty" or "meaningless." Put Ecclesiastes 5:10 in your own words.

6. Money isn't just about money. Jesus' warning and promises in these verses is directed at our hearts.

7. How would you describe your heart as it pertains to money?

Money matters to me more than it should. My possessions do not "own" me.

I see money as a tool; nothing more. I have an open hand and heart with money.

It's God's money; He's just entrusted it to me to invest wisely

DAY 4: Your eyes affect your heart

Matthew 6:22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.

1. What we feast our eyes on affects our inner world. It affects our hearts, our values, what we deem worth living for, etc.
2. How do eyes that value godly things affect our inner world/ heart? (Mt. 6:22)

Matthew 6:23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

3. If our eyes feast (treasure) on the things of this world, what effects can we expect on our hearts?

4. Let's look at an example from Eve.

*Genesis 3:6 So when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was to be **desired** to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate.*

5. Jot down every word or idea that had to do with her eyes, and the effects it had on her heart and choices.

6. What struck you from Genesis 3:6? What connection did make between our eyes and heart?

7. Let's look at another example from the Old Testament. Achan stole some articles when no one was looking. He got caught anyway.

*Joshua 7:20 And Achan answered Joshua, "Of a truth I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹ when I **saw** among the spoil a **beautiful** mantle from Shinar, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, then I **coveted** them, and took them; and behold, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."*

8. How does something like this happen? List the steps that led to his downfall:

9. Reread Matthew 6:22-23 at the top of this page. Ask God to give you "clear" eyes. Ask Him to protect your eyes from spiritual near-sightedness or spiritual glaucoma!

DAY 5: What's your real treasure?

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

1. "Money" - used to be translated, "Mammon." The Hebrew root of the word meant "to entrust," or "place in another's keeping." When we go on vacation, we "entrust" ("mammon") my house key to a trusted friend. "Mammon" used to have a very positive meaning.

2. Over time, the meaning changed from "that which is entrusted" to "that *in which* a man *trusts*." Instead of a positive meaning, it changed to a negative meaning, a meaning so bad that they began to capitalize the word to insinuate money becoming a "god!" ("Mammon").

3. Jesus is not condemning money. He is merely telling us how the human heart works. Let's illustrate how the heart works with driving a car.

a. There is only one driver in the "driver's seat".

b. You *can't* have two drivers in the driver's seat, but you can have one driver and one "backseat driver".

4. Have you ever driven your car with a very vocal "back seat driver" on board?

a. What was the affect on you?

b. On the relationship?

5. You may have both arrived at your destination, but with a lot of tension, useless to anyone at your destination.

6. What point is Jesus making in Matthew 6:24?

7. What effect would putting "Money" in the driver's seat and putting God as your "backseat driver" likely have on you???

8. If you ignore *that* backseat driver, what affect is that likely to have on you?

a. On your relationship with God?

b. On your heart?

9. What is it that you really, really, really *treasure*? What are the things of highest value to you?