



## Sermon Notes

January 6, 2008

Tim Strickland

Where Your Treasure Is... #1  
*Treasures in Heaven*  
*Matthew 6:19-24*

**Matthew 6:19-24** <sup>19</sup>*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

<sup>22</sup>*The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup>but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

<sup>24</sup>*No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.*

### Introduction

A Theme for the Year:

**"Don't Waste Your Life!"** <sup>1</sup>

Today:

**"Where Your Treasure Is..."**

- A new series about God, money & you

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### 1. Two Treasures (19-21)

#### a. Treasures on Earth

- *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth*
  - Treasures stored on earth are insecure
    - Problems with moth, rust & thieves
- The issue is not treasure itself but our attitude towards it
  - Key phrase: **for yourselves**
  - Parable of the Rich Fool: Luke 12:13-21, esp. 15, 21
    - You can't take it with you
  - See also 1 Tim. 6:9-10, James 6:1-6, Heb. 13:5-6

#### b. Treasures in Heaven

- *...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven*
  - Treasures stored in heaven are secure
    - No problems with moth, rust & thieves
- God wants us to be motivated by eternal rewards
  - Key phrase: **for yourselves**
  - Matthew 6:4, 6, 18 - *And your Father who sees in secret will reward you*
  - "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose" - Jim Elliot
    - You can send it on ahead
  - See also: Luke 6:22-23, 12:32-34, 1 Tim. 6:17-19, Heb. 11:24-26

#### c. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- Your treasure is a reflection of your heart – see Luke 6:43-45
- This principle applies to rich & poor alike

Five Questions to help you determine what your treasure is: <sup>2</sup>

1. What do we value most?
2. What would we most hate to lose?
3. What do our thoughts turn to most frequently when we are free to think of whatever we will?
4. What affords us the greatest pleasure?
5. What are the things that we measure others by? (This question is a very revealing mirror because we measure other people by that which we treasure.)

1. This year's theme is taken from the title of John Piper's excellent book, Don't Waste Your Life (Crossway, Wheaton, 2003)

2. The first four questions are from A.W. Tozer, quoted by Randy Alcorn in The Law of Rewards, p16. The last question is from R. Kent Hughes, The Sermon on the Mount, p209.

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**2. Two Visions (22-23)**

a. Healthy Eye → Light

- *The eye is the lamp of the body*
- *if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light*
  - 'healthy' = single and/or generous
    - See Rom. 12:8, 2 Cor. 8:1-2, 9:11-13 (generosity/singleness/liberality)

b. Bad Eye → Darkness

- *but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.*
  - 'bad' = evil and/or stingy (check commentaries)
    - See Deut. 15:9, Prov 23:6, 28:22 (evil eye = stingy), Matthew 20:15 (is your eye bad because I am good)
- *If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

Q: Is your vision clouded with a dark fog of stinginess instead of shining with the clear light of generosity?

**3. Two Masters (24)**

a. You can only be a slave to one master

**Matthew 6:24** *No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.*

- Romans 6:16, James 4:4

b. The way you relate to money is ultimately about who is Lord of your life.

- This is why understanding God's teaching about money is so important. **If you miss it you may fall into idolatry!**
- Money (Mammon) is a great slave but a terrible master

c. You belong to Christ

**1 Cor. 6:19b-20** *You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

**1 Cor. 7:23** *You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.*

Q: Who is your Master?

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**Our Response**

1. Examine yourself to determine where your treasure is, and to determine what this says about the state of your heart.
2. Ask God for the strength to be a generous person towards God and others.
3. Seek to serve only one Master, Jesus Christ and to make money your slave in His service.

**1 Tim. 6:17-19** *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. [18] They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, [19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

**Questions for Application**

1. Discuss John Piper's challenge, "**Don't Waste Your Life**". How is a life wasted? How is a life not wasted? How does this theme relate to this new series, "Where Your Treasure Is...?"
2. Where is your treasure? (You can use the questions on p2 of today's notes to help you answer this question.) What does this say about where your heart is?
3. Discuss the key phrase 'for yourselves' as it relates to storing up treasures either on earth or in heaven.
4. Do you have a stingy, miserly eye, or do you have a generous eye?
5. How does your attitude towards treasure connect with who is your master? Does earthly treasure master you? Or are you a sold-out slave of Christ?
6. Pray together for strength from the Lord to make Him the greatest treasure in your life. Praise Him for saving us from our sins and for being faithful to us even though we do not deserve it. Pray for transformation in all of our lives as we learn God's principles about handling treasure in this new series.

**Questions, Comments? - [inthebeginning@look.ca](mailto:inthebeginning@look.ca)**

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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