

Single-minded Devotion (Matthew 6:19-24)

This passage confronts you with a choice. Do you live with godly loyalty or do you pursue worldly royalties?

In defining true followers, Kingdom citizens, Jesus deals with relationships with others (5:21-48), aspects of worship (6:1-18), and your relationship to the world (6:19-34). Two main mindsets prevail. You aim to get all you can or you worry that you won't have enough. Verses 19-24 probes your heart by assessing the kind treasure you most value.

Main Point: How you use assets reveals your true devotion. Use your assets to serve God. (Assets - Time, energy [mental and physical], means, relationships. Central point of the passage appears in verse 21)

The Path: Use your assets to invest in making disciples (19-21)

- Christ prohibits amassing excessive deteriorating treasure (19) (Luke 12 - Rich man who wanted to build more barns for his personal comfort. "Not only love of money, but love of honour, the love of position, the love of status, the love of one's work in an illegitimate sense, whatever it may be, anything that stops with this life and this world." – Lloyd-Jones)
- Christ commands investing in eternity (20) (Tangible assets produce eternally valuable treasure)
- "Treasure in heaven" defined: Jesus exemplifies in chps. 8-9. Note that 1 Timothy 6 admonishes toward "good works." Cf. Titus 3:1, 8. "These things are profitable **for people**."
- Your response reveals your devotion (21) (What would an assessment of your use of time, energy, and spending indicate about your devotion to God?)

Transition: What keeps you from connecting to people? Self-focus (ILL – on the interstate of stuff and can't pull off)

The Stumbling Block: Covetous greed will distort your perspective (22-23)

- Uncovering the metaphor: Deut. 15:9-11; Prov. 22:9; 28:22 (parallel to being open handed or tight fisted)
- Generosity or greed and covetousness determine your perspective in all of life
- A covetous perspective yields great loss (note introduction of light/darkness in Matt. 4:16)

The Solution: You must choose between serving God or stuff (24)

- One master excludes any commitment to another
- God and possessions are both masters

Truth about serving God:

1. God will keep his promises - you *will* have treasure in heaven (Isaiah 46:8-10)
2. God is a good, satisfying master (Psalm 145:14-20)
3. The world, with its desires, will pass away (1 John 2:15-17)

Practical steps to laying up treasure in heaven (in order of priority):

1. Establish regular, planned giving (First day, as the Lord blesses, tithe seems to be the paradigm - Heb. 7:1-10)
2. Fulfillment of obligations (pay off your debts, don't ignore responsibilities)
3. Exercise wise stewardship of assets (How am I currently using my stuff? Can I improve my stewardship?)
4. Preparation for over-and-above sacrificial generosity (2 Corinthians 8-9)

Final Considerations:

1. Christ does not condemn being rich, but living for riches/wealth/status, etc. The truth applies to a jungle tribe.
2. Wealthy people supported Christ during his ministry and he was buried in a wealthy man's tomb.
3. Jesus addresses the mindset.
 - a. Example: Demas left Paul because he loved this world (2 Timothy 4:10)
 - b. Application: Does anything holding value in this world only keep me from opportunities to lay up heavenly treasure by engaging in what holds spiritual value?

Time is limited. Don't waste it on what doesn't matter. In the few seconds before you enter eternity, pray that your last thoughts will not be of regret for wasting your life on what, at that moment, matters not at all.