

# Money and Possessions

(Matthew 6:19-34)

Series: *Jesus Uncensored: The Sermon on the Mount*

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

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## Something to think about:

"In the fifth century, a man named Arenius determined to live a holy life. So, he abandoned the comforts of Egyptian society to follow an austere lifestyle in the desert. Yet whenever he visited the great city of Alexandria, he spent time wandering through its bazaars. When asked why, he explained that his heart rejoiced at the sight of all the things he didn't need.

"Those of us who live in a society flooded with goods and gadgets need to ponder the example of that desert dweller. A typical supermarket in the United States in 1976 stocked 9,000 articles; in 1994 it carried 30,000; today 38,900. The real question is: How many of these articles are absolutely essential? How many superfluous?"<sup>1</sup>

Today, we continue with Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*. In the following passage Jesus gets right to the point about money and possessions. Let's take a look...

## **Matthew 6:19-34 (NLT)**

***<sup>19</sup> "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.***

***<sup>22</sup> "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!***

***<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.***

***<sup>25</sup> "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? <sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?***

***<sup>28</sup> "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for***

***wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?***

***<sup>31</sup> "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.***

***<sup>34</sup> "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.***

**Key Point: "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."**

In this passage, Jesus is getting to the very root of desire; the very root of the heart's desire. In the Old Testament, this would have been a discussion on idolatry, or the worship of other gods. In the Gospels Jesus is making a point about the idols of money and possessions versus reliance and trust on God.

So, what are some things we can learn about treasures from this passage today?

1. Treasures on earth are connected with the physical/material and therefore wither and fade, treasures in heaven are spiritual in nature and never wither or fade.
2. What we treasure either gives us focus or distorts our focus.
3. When we treasure earthly treasures the natural result is worry, but when God is our treasure and our minds are on the things of heaven we have eternal security.

## Something to take home:

Life is tragic for the person who has plenty to live on but nothing to live for.

***Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT), <sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.***

So... What will you be remembered for when you die? What are you investing your life and resources in that have eternal value? What do you find yourself worrying about the most? How much reliance do you place on God for your day to day living, and how much importance do you place on material stuff? Where do you find real security in life?

**Key Point: "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."**

Be careful what you treasure. What you treasure could save you or destroy you.



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## KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ Define the word “treasure.”
- ⇒ What are some things you treasure the most?

**SCRIPTURE:** (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

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## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. After reading the passage for today’s discussion, what is going on in the text?  
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2. Jesus contrasts treasures of earth and treasures in heaven (vv. 19-21). Give some examples of earthly treasures. Now, give some examples of treasures in heaven. How are they different?  
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3. In the next few verses (vv. 22-23), following His comparison of earthly treasures as contrasted with heavenly treasures, Jesus talks about the eye being the “lamp of the body.” How is Jesus’ discussion of treasure, and the desires of the heart, linked to His discussion about the eye being the lamp of the body?  
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4. Next (v. 24) Jesus makes the claim that a person cannot serve two masters, referring specifically to God (one master) and money (another master). Why can’t a person serve both God and money/possessions/wealth? What happens when a person tries to serve both God and money/possessions/wealth?  
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5. Continuing in the same vein of thought, Jesus then transitions into a talk about worry/anxiety. In these next verses (vv. 25-34) Jesus talks about the vanity of worrying. In essence He says that it does no good and cannot add another day to our lives. Instead of worrying about food, clothing, money, possessions, etc., what does Jesus tell us to do (v. 33)? What “things” is Jesus talking about that will be added to us if we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first? Will we get everything we want, or will we have all that we need?  
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6. Read Philippians 4:6-7. Paul reiterates Jesus’ command not to worry. Instead of worrying, what does Paul we should do? What is the result of doing what Paul suggests we do?  
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7. Today, what are some things that you worry about? Is there anything you treasure above your relationship with Jesus? Take some time individually, or as a group, to work through these things.  
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## SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **WHAT WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED FOR WHEN YOU DIE?** What are you investing your life and resources in that have eternal value? What do you find yourself worrying about the most? How much reliance do you place on God for your day to day living, and how much importance do you place on material stuff? Where do you find real security in life?
- ⇒ **BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU TREASURE.** What you treasure could save you or destroy you. When He is all we have, we learn that He is all we need.
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES FOR THIS WEEK:** *Matthew 6:21* and *Philippians 4:6-7*.