

“JESUS’ KINGDOM MANIFESTO”

BIG IDEA . . . Part 11: What NOT to Worship (Matt. 6:19-24)

INTRO: The SOM is Jesus’ longest recorded teaching. It is His manifesto to all who want to follow Him. It opens with promise of blessings (5:1-16) and the remainder is most challenging, not for the fainthearted. Theme of Ch. 5 True Righteousness. Ch. 6 True Worship comes from a heart of true righteousness. Ch. 6:1-18 highlighted the *spiritual disciplines* (holy habits) – from the heart, never to be seen and honored by men – including helping the needy, praying, fasting (others, God, me). We want to separate the material from the spiritual. What we desire and what makes us worry says much about our heart.

Now in 6:19-24 Jesus focuses on the *material dimensions* of life (money, possessions, etc.), telling us what NOT to worship. Don’t worship anything or anyone but God; only He is worthy. Actually vv. 19-34 has four sections, we’ll examine first three today (vv. 19-24). In this passage Jesus presents three illustrations about God and money – Never worship the material, but manage it well for Him, since He’s owner. That way the need will never become greed. Two treasures, two eyes, two masters – each giving us a truth concerning God and money.

I. TWO TREASURES (vv. 19-21) – “Where is your treasure”

A. Negatively, *Earthly* treasures (v. 19)

1. Definition – accumulated and excess resources, beyond what we need for a comfortable life (hoarding for self). We live in a materialistic world. Many warnings in Bible (Exo. 20:17; Psa. 119:36; Mk. 7:22; Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:5; 1 Tim. 6:10).

Illus/stats . . .

John D. Rockefeller . . .

2. Culmination “where moth and rust . . .” – only temporal pass away by corruption or theft). Warnings (Pro. 11:4, 28; 23:4-5; Eccl. 5:10).

B. Positively, *Heavenly* treasures (v. 20)

1. Definition – Heavenly (Eternal) treasures are investments in what is eternal – God, Word, People. See Lk. 12:16-21 getting rich toward God. Story of rich young ruler (Lk. 18:18-30). Jesus not saying that treasure in heaven is gained by giving away treasure on earth (this would give the rich spiritual advantage). Hard for the wealthy to enter KOH (Matt. 19:23). He’s saying treasures in heaven are gained by keeping godly priorities that invests in that which is eternal . . .
2. Culmination – never corrupted or stolen, safe with God in heaven. Bible promises rewards for sending it ahead. Don’t get caught up in the quest to accumulate for yourself, but invest in the kingdom.

- C. “Where is your heart?” (v. 21) Heart follows treasure – always. W.W. Wiersbe . .

TRUTH: *Use what God gives you NOW to invest in the eternal (God, Word, People).*

II. TWO EYES (vv. 22-23) Hebrew idiom for the heart – “What is your focus-perspective of God and money?”

- A. Eye is about focus or perspective. Healthy (good) eye is positive, optimistic, sees the good in people and things – good eye has proper perspective seeing God as sole owner and generous giver of all we have; source of all blessings. Because He is generous, so must we – brings “light”.
- B. Bad eye is opposite – negative, pessimistic, sees the bad, etc. A bad eye has a wrong view of God and money – leads to “darkness”.
- C. “What is your perspective of God in regard to the material, esp. money?”

TRUTH: *When we see God as good and generous we will be good and generous, too.*

III. TWO MASTERS (v. 24) – “Who or What is your master?”

Contrast two masters:

- A. *Money (mammon)* is the master of many, including followers of Christ. Jesus is using a comparison of a slave owned by their master – a terrible existence. Money is a wonderful servant but a terrible master. Don’t sell self to an unworthy master. A. Schweitzer . . .
- B. *God* is our master. He bought us with a price. He owns us (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 6:15-19). Complete devotion to two masters is impossible – all must choose. See Luke 16:10-13 . . .
- C. “Who or What is your master?”

TRUTH: *Serve and honor God as only worthy master*

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

1. It’s not about money; it’s about God.
2. It’s not about amount, it’s about attitude.
3. It’s not about what God wants from us, but FOR us. We can never outgive Him.

CONC: Materialism enslaves our heart, mind, and will. Three challenging questions: Where is your heart? What is your perspective of God regarding money? What or who do you serve? Josh. 24:15 choose wisely!