



PART 8: WEALTH AND WORRY

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 6:19-34

Introduction:

The heart is the seat of the mind, will and emotions

Ezekiel 36:26-27

Materialism: An inordinate desire or dependance on money and material things.

1. The Power of Materialism

Matthew 6:21

“The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being” (The Message)

“Life organizes itself around your heart” ~Dallas Willard

2. The Problem of Materialism

Greed and materialism are hard to diagnose, and no one thinks they are materialistic.

Matthew 6:22-23

Dark eyes, lead to darkness of the body. A dark heart leads to darkness of the soul.

3. Freedom from Materialism

Matthew 6:25

v. 20

Treasures that last for eternity:

- Faith, hope, love (1 Cor. 13)
- Christ-like character
- People
- Intimacy and Communion with God

“Treasures in heaven” is not a synonym for “treasures after you die.” We can draw upon our heavenly treasures to help us in our present times of need.

Matthew 6:22 - “healthy” can also mean “generous.”

The cure for materialism is generosity.

Conclusion:

Matthew 6:33

Matthew 13:44 (The parable of the hidden treasure)

Jesus gave everything to be with his treasure - us!

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What is your most prized possession? What makes it so valuable to you?
2. How would you define materialism and greed? Why are greed and materialism so hard to diagnose in ourselves? Do you have any suggestions for how to diagnose them? Can the same criteria be applied to everyone?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 6:33. What does this verse mean to you? Some have interpreted this verse to mean that Christians don't have to work hard to provide for themselves, but verses like 2 Thess. 3:10 clearly contradict that. What responsibilities do we have in providing necessities for ourselves, and our families? How do we reconcile our responsibilities with Jesus' teaching about the provision of God?
2. Read Luke 12:13-21. Matthew's version of the sermon on the mount doesn't include this parable. What does the parable teach us about storing up earthly treasures? How do we "watch out" (v. 15) for greed? What does it mean to be "rich toward God" (v. 21)?
3. Read Luke 12:22-34. Compare and contrast this passage to its parallel passage in Matthew 6:19-34. How does Luke's version differ? Does Luke's version give you any new or additional understanding of this topic?
4. Pastor Dave said, "The cure for materialism is generosity." Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?

Application:

1. What could your Life Group do to practice generosity together?
2. For personal reflection: What is the likely candidate in your life to be a treasure that distracts you from your relationship with God? How will you make sure it doesn't gain power over you? Who can you ask to help you "watch out for greed"?

Prayer:

1. Pray for God to help us diagnose our own greed, and save us from materialism.
2. Other requests
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