**"Loyalty in Worship"**

**Matthew 6:19-24**

 ***Overview***  “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure” – or so they say. There is no

 denying that treasure is measured differently by different people. We all have our

 own ideas about what we consider valuable.

 For some people treasure is measured by the size of the bank account. For

 others, it may be the quality of an art collection, or by the cars sitting in the

 garage, or by the vacation property that can be enjoyed.

 Then again, treasure is not necessarily measured by the physical assets we own.

 Many find treasure in a good family, or good health, or a bright future. And then

 there are the Christians who take treasure to a whole other level.

***Getting Started***  *In the Eye of the Beholder*



 1. What is the greatest treasure you have ever found in a second-hand store or flea market?

 2. What is one “different” or unique thing that you treasure?

3. What is one thing you treasure now that you did not treasure earlier in life? OR What is one thing you used to treasure but now no longer care about as much?

 ***The Text***

19“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

 Matt. 6:19-24 (NIV)

***The Video (optional)*** *“Loyalty in Worship” – Matthew 6:19-24* – by Kyle Corbin, May 9/21 (view at [www.immanuelonline.ca](http://www.immanuelonline.ca)).

 NOTES:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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***Understanding***



 1. According to Jesus, what is the problem with making earthly treasure our aim (vs. 19)?

 2. How are the treasures in heaven superior to the treasures on earth (vs. 20)?

 3. What does the treasure we collect reveal about ourselves (vs. 20)?

 4. What common object does Jesus liken the eyes to in verse 22-23? How exactly do the eyes function as this object (i.e. what is the connection between the eyes and the heart)?

 5. What needs to be true for eyes to be considered “healthy”? Consider

 Ps. 119:17-19. What do “light” and “darkness” symbolize in vs. 22-23?

 6. What spiritual reality does Jesus outline in verses 24? What is the fundamental choice Jesus seems to say we must make? What relationship does this comment have to Jesus’ teaching on treasure

 (vs. 19-21) and the body (vs. 22-23)?

 ***Applying***

 1. Which treasure do you think most people prefer – earthly or heavenly? Why do you think this is so? How can you identify the treasure of your heart?

 2. Which comes first – the heart or the treasure (i.e. does the treasure we focus on shape the heart, or does the heart determine the treasure we seek)? Consider Pr. 4:23, Matt. 15:18, Luke 6:45. What about Ps. 119:37,

 Is. 33:15-16, Matt. 5:29?

 3. Is Jesus saying we should not acquire possessions or save for the future (note Pr. 6:6-11, 2 Cor. 12:14, 1 Tim. 5:8)?

 4. What are some examples of treasures in heaven (see Matt. 19:27-29,

 25:21-23, 34; 1 Cor. 13:13)? How exactly then do we collect such heavenly treasure (see also Col. 3:1-2, 1 Tim. 6:18-19)?

 5. Jesus seems to emphasize the degree of darkness in verse 23. What does He mean when He specifically refers to the “greatness” of the darkness? Why does He not talk about the “greatness” of the light?

 6. If someone said to you – “I prefer earthly treasure to whatever I might have in heaven – I’m better off if I focus on my earthly riches”, how would you counsel that person? Check out Ps. 112:5; Prov. 11:25, 22:9; Matt. 6:33,

 Luke 12:15, 2 Cor. 9:6-7.

 7. In verse 24, Jesus makes it plain that we cannot serve two masters. Why is this so? Do we not all do this to some extent (i.e. serve God sometimes and at other times serve money)? Some might suggest that Jesus’ teaching at this point is unrealistic. What do you think (and why)? Review Is. 42:8.

 8. What practical steps will you take in the coming week to store up for yourself more treasures in heaven?

 NB: Consider the following : 1) Make a list of those things that most demand your energy and attention. 2) Narrow the list down to the one thing you focus on more than Jesus. Surrender this to God. 3) Take the time you spend on what you have just surrendered and replace it with time spent focused on God and His Kingdom.

***Memory Verse(s)***



 24“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

 Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

***Extra Resources***



* *“Loyalty in Worship” – Matthew 6:19-24* – by Kyle Corbin, May 9/21 (view at [www.immanuelonline.ca](http://www.immanuelonline.ca)). Pastor Kyle reviews a teaching that, if followed, helps us maintain the proper priorities for this life (and the next).
* *“Freedom of Simplicity” -* by Richard Foster (HarperPaperbacks, 1981). To shift focus from earthly treasure to the simple life of faith sounds great – but it’s truly a complex challenge. Foster is a good guide for the journey.
* *“Free From Money, Rich Toward God”* – by John Piper (sermon at [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org), Jan. 4, 2016). Piper gives a quick overview on some of the key things Jesus said about our handling of money.