Riverside Community Church

Colossians - Set Your Sights
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Colossians 1:3-5 (NLT) -We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

To love God and love like God we need to set our sights on God. Matthew 6:19-34 (NLT)

Desires and treasures.
Matthew 19-21 (NLT) -"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

One Master
Matthew 22-24 (NLT) - "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! 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 God and be enslaved to money."

Details
Matthew 25-34 (NLT) -"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? 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? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 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, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 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? So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Study Guide

This last Sunday we talked a lot about the profound difference it makes to know what we are aiming for and how that changes everything.

Can you think of a time in your life when a change in goal dramatically shifted your priorities? Maybe when you started adulthood? Perhaps when you found out you would be having children? For some it could even be when we first meet Jesus.
There are pivotal moments in our lives where many things shift because of one fundamental change in understanding.

Take a moment to read Acts 9:1-31.
Saul encountered Jesus and things changed. What are some of your observations about how things changed? What was the nature of those changes?
This story is a beautiful example of just how dynamic the difference is when we shift our aim from the here and now to beyond. Saul sought to execute Christians, and then days later he himself is under threat as a Christian. He went from trying to suppress the Gospel to preaching it so much that gentiles and Jewish people both tried to kill him. Paul was living for this world and the rules of this world and then, in one encounter, he starts to play by a different set of goals. By a different set of rules.

Take a moment to look at your own life. Take a moment to reflect on where your goals lie. Are they here? Are they the values and vision of God or of the world and flesh around us?
If there is any place where you need to set your move the goal back to God, then take some time to confess that to each other and to pray for each other as well.