

April 9, 2017

Heavenly Treasures

Matthew 6:19-34

Two Types of Treasures (v.19-21)

v. 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

- Jesus exhorts his disciples to value the heavenly rewards (treasures) above any temporary earthly treasure.
- Jesus is commanding his disciples to devote their lives to deeds of righteousness through which they would accumulate heavenly treasures rather than striving to amass worldly wealth.
 - Why? *v.[21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Anxiety Diagnosed

- Why do people become anxious? In a basic sense, focusing on self rather than God leads to anxiety.
- Our hearts become set on earthly things...consequently, our hearts begin to long for earthly treasures...

- Having your treasures in the wrong place produces anxiety.

- The more we gather possessions in order to feel secure, the more we feel we need them in order to be secure, and then the more we need to guard them to maintain our security. Therefore, the less secure we are!
 - *V.19....on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal...*

- Thinking about life the wrong way produces anxiety: Poor spiritual vision – having the wrong spiritual priorities – can negatively influence the direction of our lives.
 - *V.22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, [23] but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

- Serving a master of the wrong kind produces anxiety: We were made to have a ‘master’. Serving an inappropriate one will lead to bondage.
 - *V.24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

Anxiety Cured

- Look at creation: If God provides with a tender, father-like care for creation, should there be room for worry?
 - *V.27 “Are you not worth more than they?...”*
 - *V.30 “will he not much more clothe you?”*

- Look at the nature of life: God has authored every moment of our lives. We will have all we need to fulfill his purposes, and when those purposes are accomplished, we will be taken to be with him – why, then, should we worry?
 - **V.32** *Your heavenly Father knows that you need them...*

- Seek first the Kingdom of God: Anxiety can never be cured by getting more of what we already have. Anxiety can only be cured by the assurance that all our needs will be met by our King.
 - **V.33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*