

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

# JESUS IS KING



Where is your Heart?

**Text:** Matthew 6:19-34

## 1. Treasure in Earth or Heaven? - Matthew 6:19-21

Earthly treasure is temporary and does not last, but heavenly treasure is secure.

The issue isn't that earthly treasures are bad, but they are of no ultimate value either. If this is the case, then it is wrong for the disciple of Jesus to dedicate his life to continually expanding his earthly treasures.

The secret to happiness is not *more* material things, it is *contentment*.

But the Apostle Paul had the right idea. **See 1 Timothy 6:6**

**But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven:** Heavenly treasures are everlasting and incorruptible. **Treasures in heaven** give enjoyment *now*, in the contentment and sense of well-being

that comes from being a giver. But their ultimate enjoyment comes on the other side - in eternity.

Our material treasures will not pass from this life to the next; but the good that has been done for the kingdom of God through the use of our treasures lasts for eternity, and the work God does *in us* through faithful giving will last for eternity.

**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also:**

Jesus drew the conclusion that you can only have your treasure (and your heart) in one place; we can't store up treasure on earth and on heaven at the same time.

## **2. The Light of Body - Matthew 6:22-23**

This simply means that "light" comes into the body through the eye. If our eyes were blind, we would live in a "dark" world.

The word single simply means good or clear. The idea behind having a **good** eye is either being *generous* or being *single minded*. Both principles apply to the disciple's attitude towards material things.

Being *heavenly minded* brings light to our lives. We are happier and more content when we have God's heart and focus on His kingdom and righteousness. But if we are not it is as if **your whole body will be full of darkness**. Our selfish, miserly ways cast darkness over everything that we think or do.

Often a materialistic, miserable, selfish Christian justify their sin by saying, "It's just one area of my life." But even as the darkness of the eye affects everything in the body, so a wrong attitude towards material things brings darkness to our whole being.

## **3. Which Master? - Matthew 6:24**

Having **two masters** is not like working two jobs. Jesus had the master and slave relationship in mind, and no slave could serve two masters.

Jesus states that serving two masters is a simple impossibility. If you think that you are successfully serving two masters, you are deceived. It can't be done. As ancient Israel struggled with idolatry, they *thought* they could worship the Lord God and Baal.

God constantly reminded them that to worship Baal was to forsake the Lord God. To be **loyal to the one** is to **despise the other**.

It can be simply said: Don't serve your money. Let your money serve the Lord and it will serve you.

Jesus is talking about the *heart*. Many people would *say* they love God, but their slavery to money shows that they don't. How can we tell what we are serving?

One way is by remembering this principle: *you will sacrifice for your God*. If you will sacrifice for the sake of money, but will not sacrifice for the sake of Jesus, don't deceive yourself: money is your Master.

Also, we don't have to be rich to serve **mammon** (money and material things); the poor can be just as misplaced as the rich can be. And having money doesn't mean that you haven't laid up treasure in heaven.

#### **4. Is There More Than This Life? - Matthew 6:25**

We should not get tangled up worrying about the things of this world, because our life is more than those things. This is so powerfully important for us to remember!

You can be just as unfaithful to God with your care as well as you can through covetousness.

There is a difference between a godly sense of responsibility and an ungodly, untrusting worry. However, an ungodly, untrusting sense of worry usually disguises as responsibility.

We *are* to be concerned with the right things; the ultimate issues of life – and we then leave the management (and the worry) over material things with our heavenly Father. We think we have to do everything! Everything is up to us!

We have to bring our nation back to God! Yes, we have a role to play in serving God and laying up treasure in heaven but God is not dead!

**Is not life more than raiment:** The worry Jesus spoke of is a man who is merely concerned with physical needs. Your life is **more**, and you have eternal things to pursue.

## **5. Consider Your Value - Matthew 6:26-30**

God provides for the birds, and He takes care of them. We should expect that God would take care of us.

*Important distinction:* the birds don't *worry*, but they do *work*. Birds don't just sit with open mouths, expecting God to fill them.

**Are ye not much better than they:** The worry many people have over the material things of life is rooted in a low understanding of their **value** before God. They don't comprehend how much He loves and cares for them.

**Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature:** Worry accomplishes nothing; we can **add** nothing to our

lives by worrying. There may be greater sins than worry, but there are none more self-defeating and useless.

God even takes care of the **lilies of the field**, so He will certainly take care of you. We are confident of the power and care of a loving heavenly Father.

Often times we see having little faith as a little fault. But having little faith and trust of God and placing greater faith and trust in yourself is a great offense to God

## **6. Your Father Knows Your Needs - Matthew 6:31-32**

We are invited by the Savior to know a freedom from the worry and anxiety that comes from concern about material things.

**For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:** Jesus compares the life of those who do not know God and are separated from Him with those who do know God and receive His loving care.

Those who know God should **seek** after other things.

## **7. Seek First the Kingdom of God - Matthew 6:33**

This must be the rule of our life when determining our priorities. Don't think that this is just another priority to fit onto our list of priorities – and to put at the top. Instead, in everything we do, we **seek first the kingdom of God**.

For example, we rarely have to choose between honoring God and loving our wives or being good workers. We honor God and **seek first the kingdom of God** by being good husbands and good workers.

We should also remember this statement in its immediate context. Jesus reminds us that our physical well-being is not a worthy object to devote our lives to.

I'll say that again. Your physical well-being is not a worthy object to devote your life to

If you think it is worthy that your god is mammon, then your life is cursed with worry, and you live life too much like an animal, concerned mostly with physical needs.

Jesus didn't just tell them to stop worrying; He told them to *replace* worry with a concern for the kingdom of God. A habit or a passion can only be given up for a greater habit or passion.

**And all these things shall be added to you:** If you put God's kingdom first, and do not think that your physical well-being is a worthy object to live your life for, you then may enjoy **all these things**.

He promises heavenly treasure, rest in divine provision, and fulfillment of God's highest purpose for man – fellowship with Him, and being part of His kingdom.

## **8. Live in the Present - Matthew 6:34**

If you *must* worry, worry only for the things of today. Most of our worry is over things that we have absolutely no control over anyway, and is foolish and harmful.

**Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof:** Jesus reminds us of the importance of living for the present **day**.

It isn't wrong to remember the past or plan for the future; to some degree both of those are good. Yet it is easy to become too focused on either the past or the future and to let **the day** and **its**

**own trouble** be ignored. God wants us to remember the past, plan for the future, but live in the present.



## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the cares of life that are dominating our lives right now?
2. How do you lay up for yourself treasure in heaven?
3. Why do you think most Americans say that can live the "American Dream" is they make double what they currently do?
4. How is contentment better than the American Dream?
5. Why can't you serve two masters?
6. What does Jesus mean that we are more than food, drink, or raiment?
7. Are you better than the fowls of the air and the lilies of the field? Why?
8. How do you seek first the kingdom of God?
9. Why is it important to live in the present day?