

What Jesus Has to Say About...

“What Jesus Has to Say About Money”

Matthew 6:19-34 – February 14, 2010

Sermon Series on Matthew

WHAT JESUS HAS TO SAY ABOUT...		
A 7-Week Series on the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7		
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Jan 10	What Jesus Has to Say About Happiness	5:1-16
Jan 17	What Jesus Has to Say About Anger	5:17-26
Jan 24	What Jesus Has to Say About Lust	5:27-30
Jan 31	What Jesus Has to Say About Divorce	5:31-48
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Feb 14	What Jesus Has to Say About Money	6:19-34
Feb 21	What Jesus Has to Say About Relationships	7:1-29

What Jesus Has to Say About Money in Matthew 6:19-34

Serve God, not money, with your life

- Key verse = v.24
- *kurios* = supreme in authority; controller; lord; master
- *doouleuo* = to be slave to; to be in bondage to; to serve
- Jesus’ point: You must decide who is going to be your master. Is it going to be God or money? It cannot be both! He doesn’t say it “should not” be both – He says it “cannot be both.” It is impossible to serve both God and money as your master. You must choose one or the other.
- Application #1 – What is my choice? (circle one) God or Money

How Do You Serve God Rather Than Money? (Matthew 6:19-34)

1. What you serve is determined by where you store your treasures (vv.19-24)

- *thesaurizo* = to amass or reserve; to lay up; to store; to heap
- We have two options on where to store our treasures:

Place	On Earth	In Heaven
Duration	Temporal	Eternal
Permanence	Can be destroyed or stolen	Cannot be destroyed or stolen
Examples	Amassing or heaping into bank accounts, stocks, mutual funds, investments, houses; “filling up barns”	Things that count for eternity: souls, God’s Word, Kingdom work, worship, discipleship, service, fellowship, missions

- John Stott: “Jesus is not forbidding having possessions, nor making provision for the future (Prov. 6:6-8), nor enjoying the gifts of a good Creator (1 Tim 4:3-4; 6:17). What Jesus forbids His followers is the selfish accumulation of goods (note: ‘for yourselves’); extravagant and luxurious living; the hardheartedness which does not feel the colossal need of the world’s underprivileged people; the foolish fantasy that a person’s life consists in the abundance of his possessions (Luke 12:15); and the materialism which tethers our hearts to the earth.”
- Application #2 – Lord, I confess I have been stockpiling treasures here on earth by...
 - Selfishly accumulating stuff that I really don’t need
 - Engaging in extravagance while ignoring the poor
 - Going beyond making provision for the future into the realm of hoarding and amassing and heaping
 - Lusting after the world’s stuff with my eyes (Matthew 6:22-23; 1 John 2:15-16)
 - Not investing in things that count for eternity
- Shane Claiborne: “The early Christians said that if a child starves while a Christian has extra food, then the Christian is guilty of murder.”
- Dorothy Day: “If you have two coats, one of them belongs to the poor.”
- Switchfoot song: “Gone”

Gone, like Frank Sinatra
Like Elvis and his mom
Like AL Pacino's cash nothing lasts in this life
My high school dreams are gone
My childhood sweets are gone
Life is a day that doesn't last for long

Life is more than money
Time was never money
Time was never cash,
Life is still more than girls
Life is more than hundred dollar bills
And roto-tom fills
Life's more than fame and rock and roll and thrills
All the riches of the kings end up in wills
We got information in the information age
But do we know what life is
Outside of our convenient Lexus cages

- Randy Alcorn: “You cannot take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.”
- Application #3 – I want to send it on ahead! I want to store up treasures in heaven by investing my time, money, talents, and gifts into things that

count for eternity. Specifically, with God's help, I am going to invest my time, money, talents, and gifts into...

- Saving souls – helping other people go to heaven both from here in West Houston-Katy and from across the earth in the 10/40 Window (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 15:20);
- The Word of God – learning and applying it myself and helping others do the same (1 Peter 1:24-25);
- My local church – bringing my tithe into God's house for the work of His Kingdom (Malachi 3:8-10);
- My local church – using my talents and spiritual gifts to serve others so that working together we advance His Kingdom (Living Stones; 1 Peter 4:10-11);
- Helping the poor, the overlooked, and the forgotten in Jesus' name (Matthew 25);
- Engaging in secret acts of righteousness like giving, praying, and fasting (Matthew 6:1-18);
- Rick Warren: "The best use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it. The truth is, only the Kingdom of God is going to last. Everything else will eventually vanish. That is why we must live... lives committed to worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, ministry, and fulfilling our mission on earth. The results of these activities will last forever!"
- You can actually lead your heart by where you put your money (Matthew 6:21).

2. What you serve is determined by where you focus your passions (vv.25-34)

- Jesus uses the word "worry" 6 times in these verses (vv.25,27,28,31,34,34)
- *merimnao* = to be concerned for; to be anxious about; to think about something; to reflect
- Worrying is merely negative meditations – it is to reflect negatively with concern and anxiety about something over and over and over. And the #1 thing we tend to meditate negatively (worry) about is money and material things.
- Jesus' major command here (6 times!) is: Do not worry. Do not focus your passions on being concerned about material things (vv.25,31,34). To do so is to miss what is truly important in life (v.25b).
- Instead: Focus your passions on God and His Kingdom and His right way of living... and then God will take care of all of your needs (v.33).
- Two examples:
 - (1) Trust God to provide for you like He does the birds (vv.26-27)
 - (2) Trust God to clothe you like He does the fields (vv.28-30)
- Application #4 – Today, I choose to lay aside my negative anxieties and instead to passionately pursue God by...

- Reflecting on the birds and the fields (Matthew 6:26-30)
- Memorizing Matthew 6:33
- Regularly choosing to pray and let God do "the worrying"
- Daily meditating on God's Word through a Bible reading plan of some kind (consider SOAP on Pastor's Kiosk)
- Regularly spending time worshipping God
- Trusting God with Lordship of my finances by giving the "first fruits" back to Him (Proverbs 3:9-10)
- Banding with others to encourage one another in passionately pursuing God first above all else (small groups)
- Other
- Warren Wiersbe: "Three words in this section point the way to victory over worry: faith, Father, first. If we have *faith* in our *Father* and put Him *first*, He will meet our needs."
- Application #5 – Today, I choose to lay aside my negative anxieties by trusting God with the greatest need that I have – namely, salvation from the punishment of my sins. Today, I place my trust in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, and I receive His free gift of righteousness given to me (Romans 3:21-24).

Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. I confess that I have sinned against You, and I tell You that I am sorry. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins and rising from the dead. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.

- John Stott: "To seek first His Kingdom is to desire as of first importance the spread of the reign of Jesus Christ. God is King, has inaugurated His saving reign through Christ, and has a right to rule in the lives of His creatures. Our ambition, then, is to seek first His Kingdom, to cherish the passionate desire that His name should receive from men the honour which is due to it."

Questions to Discuss with Your Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. What are some of the things that you tend to worry about?
2. Read Matthew 19-34 aloud and discuss its meaning and applications using these notes. Share your applications with each other and pray for each other.
3. As a group, memorize Matthew 6:33. Practice reciting it to one another.