

Treasures in the Heart

Matthew 6:19-24

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (v21)

Intro

‘What are you investing in?’

1. Man is created a *worshipful* being.

The single greatest purpose of mankind is to worship their God, which is secured for them in salvation.

“We are saved to worship God. All that Christ has done for us in the past and all that He is doing now leads to this one end” (Tozer).

“Worship is the highest and noblest activity of which man, by the grace of God, is capable” (Stott).

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God” (William Temple).

“Treasures” means wealth, which includes all of the things we personally benefit from in this life.

2. Worship takes place in the *heart* of man.

We worship what/who we value most.

3. Values are prioritized in the heart daily.

The thing we choose to think about most, cherish the most, and nurture the most, has the greatest value in our lives.

Our values are revealed by how we choose to spend the limited, *temporary* resources God has given to each person:

- ✓ Time
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Money
- ✓ Possessions

The ultimate question to ask yourself is this:

What are you living for?

We all have treasures in some form.

- For some it may be *money*.
- For others, it may be a *talent* or *ability*.
- For others, it may be *status* or *position*.
- For others, it may be a *house* or a *car*.
- For others, it may be an *image* they want to project.
- For others, it may be a level of *health* or *fitness* they strive to maintain.
- For others it may be a *husband* or *wife*, or *children*.

Whatever you're living for, if you would be devastated if you lost it or them, if it or they defined you, gave your life meaning, significance, or purpose, then that is your most valued treasure.

4. The heart is the essence of the person.

God wants our hearts to be made right. Only then will we know where to place our investments.

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.... The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil" (Matthew 12:33, 35).

"good" is from a Gk word *kalos*, that means *valuable*; "good as to quality and character."

Where is your heart? *Wherever your treasure is.*

5. The heart must be changed in order to redirect the focus of our *treasure*.

Two significant events that triggered the redirection of Israel's treasure:

- 1) When they were delivered from captivity in Egypt and led to their promised land.
- 2) When they were set free from Babylonian captivity and returned to their promised land.

The one thing that both events had in common that God used to pierce and redirect their heart:

Reading and explaining of the Word of God.

"Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, 'This is the thing that the Lord has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the Lord. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the Lord's contribution:' And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the Lord.... Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the Lord's contribution. And every one who possessed acacia wood of any use in the work brought it. And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair. And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord" (Exodus 35:4-5; 22-29).

“And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose.... And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people...and as he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen,’ lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground” (Nehemiah 8:1-6).

“the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.... And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them” (Nehemiah 8:7-8, 12).

This is the advent of *expository preaching*. A tradition that holds today.

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27).

God gives us wealth to *test* us—to see what is in our hearts.

The problem is the greed, the *covetousness*, of mankind.

“The Pharisees...were lovers of money” (Luke 16:14).

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5).

“*Do not lay up for yourselves*” i.e., ‘do not store; do not treasure.’

Man seeks independence from God.

"Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness...that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish” (Deuteronomy 8:11-19).

“Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty” (Proverbs 3:9-10).

“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want” (Proverbs 11:24).

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6).

“give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).