

International Conversation Cafe

Bible Topic: Earthly Treasure or Heavenly Treasure?

Matthew 6

Not many people dream of being poor; most people prefer wealth. Often, we tend to make wealth the most important thing in life. We assume that if we were wealthy, all of our other problems would be gone.

Jesus had a very different perspective on wealth. He spoke about money often and warned not to make it a god, the most important thing in life.

Jesus said: "Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, store up treasures for yourselves in heaven. There, moths and rust do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your treasures are. ~Matthew 6

Summarize what Jesus is saying.

"Treasures in heaven," refer to rewards God gives to faithful believers for their generosity to those in need, 1 Timothy 6:18. Though the Bible does not say exactly what these rewards are, we can be sure they are better than earthly treasures. Jesus recommended we make heavenly treasures a priority.

How would one do that?

Jesus goes on, as recorded in Matthew 6, to describe our attitude towards material possessions. Keep in mind that eyes represent what we look at and desire. The good eye represents a person with an attitude of generosity. The bad eye or evil eye represents a person who is stingy, greedy, and not inclined to be generous with their money to help others.

The eye is like a lamp for the body. Suppose your eyes are good. Then your whole body will be full of light. But suppose your eyes are bad. Then your whole body will be full of darkness. If the light inside you is darkness, then it is very dark!

Put into your own words what Jesus seems to be saying.

How do you think this attitude of greed affects a person's body as Jesus said?

"No one can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one of them and love the other. Or he will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can't serve God and Money at the same time. ~Matthew 6

Restate the main thought.

Why do you think Jesus said you cannot serve money and God at the same time?

While we all need money to survive, how can we keep money from becoming the most important thing in our life?

Jesus said: **25** "I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don't worry about your body and what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than eating? Aren't there more important things for the body than clothes?"

26 "Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?"

27 "Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying?"

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wild flowers grow. They don't work or make clothing. **29** But here is what I tell you. Not even Solomon in all of his glory was dressed like one of those flowers.

30 "If that is how God dresses the wild grass, won't he dress you even better? After all, the grass is here only today. Tomorrow it is thrown into the fire. Your faith is so small!"

31 "So don't worry. Don't say, 'What will we eat?' Or, 'What will we drink?' Or, 'What will we wear?'" **32** People who are ungodly run after all of those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them.

33 "But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you.

34 "So don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. ~Matthew 6

Restate what Jesus is saying using the two illustrations from nature.

How does someone put God's kingdom ahead of themselves?

What phrase or sentence calms your heart when it comes to financial pressure?