

Treasure

JESUS CHANGES OUR PRIORITIES.

Matthew 6:19-34

19 “Don’t store up for yourselves **treasures** **A** on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your **heart** **B** will be also. **22** The **eye** **C** is the lamp of the body. 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. So if the light within you is darkness, how **deep** **D** is that darkness! **24** No one can serve **two masters**, **E** since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. **25** Therefore I tell you: **Don’t worry** **F** about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? **26** Consider the birds of the sky: They don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet **your heavenly Father feeds them**. **G** Aren’t you worth more than they? **27** Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? **28** And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. **29** Yet I tell you that not even **Solomon** **H** in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. **30** If that’s how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won’t he do much more for you—you of little faith? **31** So don’t worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ **32** For the **Gentiles eagerly seek** **I** all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and **all these things** **J** will be provided for you. **34** Therefore don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has **enough trouble** **K** of its own.”

Exploring Key Words

- A** The things an individual values most. Jesus drew a distinction between material treasures on earth and eternal rewards in heaven (v. 20).
- B** The moral and spiritual center of our being, including thoughts, emotions, will, and desires.
- C** Spiritual focus, parallel to one’s heart in verse 21. In context, a healthy eye (heart) represents a whole, God-centered perspective, while an unhealthy eye signifies selfishness.
- D** “Great” (KJV; ESV; NIV). Jesus was emphasizing the magnitude of the darkness for those who stumble in a pursuit for earthly treasures.
- E** Jesus drew a contrast between a heart devoted to God and a heart devoted to the world. Only one can hold authority over a person’s life.
- F** “Take no thought” (KJV); “Do not be anxious” (ESV). While the Greek term can have a positive connotation, the context here is negative. Worry demonstrates a lack of faith and leads to spiritual distraction. See Philippians 4:6.
- G** The key to avoiding worry is trusting God’s provision. He cares for birds and flowers (see vv. 28-29), so He will care for His people.
- H** Solomon was unmatched in both wisdom and wealth (1 Kings 10:23). Gold was so abundant that silver was like rocks (2 Chron. 9:27). Yet, God gave humble wildflowers greater glory.
- I** Jesus told His people to be different. Instead of seeking earthly riches like the Gentiles, they were to pursue God’s kingdom (v. 33).
- J** For those who seek Him fully, God will provide the material needs that are necessary for life.
- K** Difficulties, challenges, and burdens (see Rom. 8:18; Jas. 1:2-4). Focusing on the moment is wiser than worrying about something that is yet to come—and may never happen.



Possessions (Matt. 6:19-24)

- Jesus delivered a message to His followers about worldly possessions and spiritual blessings. He emphasized the fleeting value of things and their vulnerability to damage or theft.
- Instead, we should pursue spiritual blessings that hold eternal value. Our hearts will reveal where our devotion lies and we cannot be fully devoted to both God and earthly possessions.

Worry (Matt. 6:25-30)

- Jesus continued His message to address a similar issue: worry.
- He exhorted His listeners to not worry about daily needs like food and clothing, but to consider the birds whom the Father faithfully feeds.
- Worry and anxiety occur when we have little faith in God to provide what we need.

Trust (Matt. 6:31-34)

- Jesus again entreated His listeners not to worry since God knows what they need. Instead, they are to pursue kingdom priorities and righteous living, trusting God to satisfy their needs.
- They weren't to worry about future needs but rather focus on the challenges of each day.

Summary Statements

Jesus changes our priorities.

- Believers should focus on heavenly treasures rather than worldly possessions.
- Placing too much priority on material possessions leads to worry and anxiety.
- Believers can trust God to provide what they need.

Memory Verse

Matthew 6:33

Key Doctrine

Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. (See Luke 12:16-21; Philippians 4:19.)



For additional commentary,
see the Leader Guide
or Adult Commentary,
available for purchase at
goExploreTheBible.com.

ENGAGE

Bonus: *What are some common debts people carry? How does debt affect our lives as individuals and as a community?*

- Money experts talk about good debt and bad debt. They describe good debt as debt you can leverage to build wealth. Bad debt, on the other hand, is debt used to purchase items that lose value over time—or any debt you are unable to pay.
- Many people today are drowning in bad debt because of misplaced priorities.

Do you agree or disagree that misplaced priorities fuel debt? Explain your answer. (PSG, p. 49)

EXPLORE

POSSESSIONS (MATT. 6:19-24)

Bonus: *How do you decide what's valuable in your life?*

- The Bible has much to say about wealth. God cares about His people's attitude toward material things. Earthly possessions should be used for kingdom purposes.
- Rather than pursuing earthly treasures that decay or could be stolen, Jesus urged His followers to focus on eternal treasures. Things like godly character and the souls of people influenced for Christ last beyond the grave.
- What we treasure defines the direction of our hearts. Like a good eye, a generous heart can bring light and life. But like an unhealthy eye, a selfish heart produces darkness and pain.
- Wealth and possessions can easily become one's master. People cannot serve two masters at once, and no one can pursue both Jesus and worldly riches completely. One will be loved and the other hated.

How can we assess where our true devotion lies? (PSG, p. 53)

WORRY (MATT. 6:25-30)

What kinds of things might you be tempted to worry about—and why? (PSG, p. 55)

- Moving from a warning against stockpiling wealth, Jesus warned against worrying about life's necessities. Life was often a struggle to survive in the first century, but Jesus told His followers to avoid anxiety over daily needs.
- Worry involves doubting God's ability and willingness to provide. Jesus told His followers to replace worry with trust in God. He noted that the Father who cares for the birds and adorns flowers with more glory than Solomon is the same Father who has promised to meet the needs of those who put their faith in Him.

- Jesus wants His people to remember that they were created in God's image. He is trustworthy to provide for the pinnacle of His creation.

Bonus: *When have you seen God meet a need in your life? How did that affect your ability to trust Him in other situations?*

TRUST (MATT. 6:31-34)

Bonus: *How well do you focus on today without worrying about tomorrow? What makes that so difficult for us?*

- A person who doesn't find hope in a relationship with God will seek hope in material things. They will settle for temporary (and empty) substitutes. Jesus reminded His disciples that God knows our needs, and He is more than able to meet those needs (see Phil. 4:19).
- Verse 33 represents the climax of Jesus's teaching about stewardship and possessions in the Sermon on the Mount. The phrase "seek first" speaks of priority. It depicts preoccupation. In this case, those preoccupied with the things of God will find all of their needs met by His grace and power.
- In verse 34, Jesus returned to the original challenge of verse 25. A follower of Christ must daily exercise dependence on God and avoid the pointless worry about tomorrow's problems: "Each day has enough trouble of its own."

What situation do you need to entrust to God today? (PSG, p. 56)

CHALLENGE

As a group, talk about challenges that adults in the group may be worrying about.

How could you help one another in these areas? (PSG, p. 57)

Challenge individuals to identify their greatest barrier to demonstrating godly stewardship.

What does your giving to God through your church say about your priorities in life? What is one step you might take to let Jesus be master of your finances? (PSG, p. 57)

FURTHER DISCUSSION



Scan here for additional discussion questions for this week's study.

BIBLE SKILL (PSG, P. 56)

Notice repeated words or phrases in a Bible passage

Jesus referenced “worry” six times in Matthew 6:19-34. Identify each reference to worry and put them in a list. Identify the commands. Identify where worry or worrying is used as a noun and note how it is used. Write a summation of each point Jesus made. ***How do these statements about worry apply to your life? What steps can you take this week to overcome worry?***

Write “Worry” on the board vertically as an acrostic. Allow adults to use the letters in the acrostic to suggest words related to worry or anxiety. Record their responses. Direct them to complete the Bible Skill activity on page 56 of the PSG. After a few minutes, review the questions from the activity. Lead a brief discussion on the contrast between worry and trusting God. Spend a moment in prayer asking God to free adults who are struggling with worry in some area of their lives.

OBJECT LESSON: TREE SKETCHES

Give adults a sheet of paper and two pens of different colors. Invite them to try sketching two trees, holding the pens in different hands. After a few minutes, review their work.

Note that simple tasks become harder when we try to control two sides of our body at the same time. Correlate this to Jesus’s analogy of serving two masters and the inevitability of the dominant one taking control. Say: *Just like one hand is stronger than the other, one master in our lives will be stronger than the other.*

Emphasize that Jesus challenged His followers to pursue God’s kingdom instead of treasures on earth. Note that while earthly treasures are not necessarily bad, they are not eternal. Say: *Stuff here on earth might be nice for a while, but it will fade or fall apart. The treasures of heaven’s kingdom, though, make a difference in this life and the next!*

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

What are the “treasures in heaven” in Matthew 6:20? The ultimate treasure is eternal life in God’s presence, where His love and glory can be experienced fully. But it’s also important to remember that eternal life doesn’t begin after death—it begins at the moment of salvation and continues forever.

This reality should inspire us to live with an eternal perspective, treasuring our relationship with God above all else. That’s why Jesus challenged His listeners to seek God’s kingdom (Matt. 6:33). While our final reward is reserved for eternity, our relationship with God should have an impact on the choices we make each day.

Having said that, heavenly treasures are spiritual blessings and eternal joys found only in God’s kingdom. These rewards highlight God’s justice and generosity, demonstrating His delight in recompensing the faithful.

As co-heirs with Christ, we share in His eternal kingdom (Matt. 25:34; John 1:12-13). Our inheritance includes a new heaven and earth, where God’s rule is fully realized (Rev. 21:1-7). Believers will live in this renewed setting, experiencing unending joy and glory.

Other biblical passages note that the faithfulness of believers also involves the awarding of various “crowns,” such as the crown of life (for those who endure trials and remain faithful, even unto death, Jas. 1:12) or the crown of glory (for faithful church leaders, 1 Pet. 5:4). These crowns symbolize honor and the believer’s victory in Christ, as well as their devotion and service to God.

Believers should anticipate perfect fellowship with God and eternal communion with other Christ followers. The next time you’re at church, look around and reflect: These are the people with whom you will share eternity in God’s presence. Let this truth inspire love, unity, and gratitude for our faith community.