

True Treasures

Matthew 6:19-24

Our Lord Jesus Christ confronts the religious leaders of His day who were preoccupied with greed, covetousness and selfishness (Luke 16:14 cf. 1 Tim. 1:6). They were under the wrong impression that their wealth was a reward for their righteousness. But since their heart was in the wrong place (Proverbs 4:23; Matt. 6:21), their righteousness was false and hypocritical. In setting our hearts in the right place, the Lord Jesus gives us three things to do:

1. *Reinvest your* _____

Riches come from God. (Deut. 8:18; Eccl. 5:19; Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27).

Christ is concerned about the wrong attitude towards what we have, the attitude of stashing or amassing surplus things or wealth without use (Luke 12:16-21). However, when riches are used wisely, lovingly, and generously for the expansion of God's kingdom here on earth, they earn eternal dividends in heaven (Proverbs 3:9; 11:24, 2 Cor. 9:6, Luke 6:38)

2. *Refocus your* _____

According to Jesus, the eye is like the lamp of the body. The heart is the eye of the soul. If our heart is devoted towards God, then it lights our whole life. But if our hearts are bent towards material things, then all these material things begin to cloud our spiritual eye and darkens our sight. An "evil eye" means grudging, or stingy (Deut. 15:9; cf. Proverbs 23:6, 28:22). If our hearts are encumbered with material concerns we become blind and insensitive even to our own spiritual concerns and needs.

3. *Recommit your* _____

Just as we cannot have our treasures both in earth and in heaven or our bodies both in light and in darkness, even so, we cannot serve two masters. Christ is the Lord and Master and Christians are God's bondservants (Romans 6:17, 20, 22). God could only be served with entire and exclusive devotion. We cannot split our devotion to both God and money. Like David, we ought to make a commitment to set the Lord always before us (Psalm 16:8).

Our possessions (and our attitude towards them) reveal what's in our heart. They can either become blessings or idols. But blessed is the man who lays his treasure in heaven, whose heart is focused in devotion to God and whose master is the Lord Jesus Christ for whatever he does glorifies God (1 Cor. 10:31).

Personal Reflection

1. Riches cannot bring true and lasting satisfaction. Here are some of the precious things in my life that riches cannot purchase:
_____.
 2. By God's grace, I would like to invest my life (my time, my talent and my treasure) in these things that bring eternal dividends:
_____.
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