## ***>>>>>>> Sermon on the Mount – Lesson 12 <<<<<<<***

1) Ok jumping back into chapter 6 verses 19-21 …

### ***Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV)***
### ***Lay Up Treasures in Heaven***

**19** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2) Of course, the question we must answer in order to completely understand what Jesus is commanding in this passage is: ***What are earthly and heavenly treasures?***
3) Before we look at either of the types of treasure, we need to look at Jesus' overarching definition for both.
4) In verse 21 He says, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
   a) In this context, the heart is the mind, the emotions, and the will.
   b) Jesus is saying that whatever things we value most control us whether we admit it or not.
5) Keeping Jesus' overarching definition in mind, let's answer the first question.

***What are the treasures we are able to store up here on earth? (Let's start with physical things.)***

a) Truly a personal thing, right? Homes, cars, prized antiques, …

***What about the non-physical earthly treasures – things that moths, rust, and thieves do not effect?***

b) jobs, hobbies, …

6) Perhaps there is one more "type" of non-physical earthly treasure?
   a) In context of what Jesus has been saying regarding acts of "religious righteousness" combined with his comment,

"Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full."

   b) Doing "right things" for wrong reasons.
      i) In other words, seeking the admiration of others rather than doing things for the reason God wants.
      ii) Being hypocritical in our acts of worship and TREASURING or relishing the rewards and accolades we receive from men for them.
   c) A potential problem with all this is that in the case of these treasures we may not even see the problem – we may think that we are doing as we should.

***Ok, let's answer the second question; What are the treasures we should store up in heaven?***

7) List of heavenly treasures:
   a) Giving – remember the Deuteronomy quote from verse 15:11 'You shall fully open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'

b) Service to others – actually goes right along with giving with an open hand. This is not saying "be warmed and filled" but is actual service to others.

c) Knowledge – what we learn about our God, all He is, has been, and all He will be that we know through His word will not be lost when we get to heaven.

d) Sharing Christ – sharing our knowledge of him and his word with others be they Christians or not.

e) Bringing others to Christ – I heard a comment on KCBI the other morning that said that every soul we had a hand in bringing to Christ is a treasure we can take to heaven.

f) All acts of obedience to God – our obedience to God is a treasure. We will be rewarded for that obedience.

8) Now, this may be a bit of a stretch, however, I would suggest that this idea of earthly vs. heavenly treasure can be seen as one way to look at our next two verses 22 and 23.

***Matthew 6:22–23 (ESV)***

**22** "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, 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. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

a) If we make our worship into "forms of religious righteousness" then I would suggest that our eye is BAD, blinded by our desire for human approval and adoration.

b) If it our eye is healthy then all our forms of worship, prayer, giving, fasting, and anything else we can think to add to that list will be for the right purpose and be bringing glory to God not ourselves.

c) In a similar fashion, if our eye is BAD, we will be more inclined to treasure things of this world rather than the things of God.

9) However, another way to look at these two verses is put forth very well by Barney Kasdan in his book "Matthew Presents Yeshua, King Messiah: A Messianic Commentary" in it he says:

Here is a classic case in which a Hebrew idiom has often been mistranslated and, consequently, misunderstood. It has nothing to do with sight but relates to one's attitudes toward material wealth. A good eye (*tov ayin* or *ayin tovah*) is descriptive in the Scriptures of a person who is generous, whereas an *evil eye* (*ra ayin* or *ayin raah*) refers to someone who is stingy (cf. Proverbs 22:9; 23:6).[16]

10) Another way of saying this might be the "eye" denotes the direction of a person's life.

a) "Good" eyes focus on God.

b) "Bad" eyes represent materialism, greed, and covetousness.

c) Those with "bad" eyes may see the light, but they have allowed self-serving desires, interests, and goals to block their vision. EARTHLY TREASURES!

1) Two masters or multiple masters – does it really matter?

[16] Barney Kasdan, *Matthew Presents Yeshua, King Messiah: A Messianic Commentary* (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 2011), 70.

***Matthew 6:24 (ESV)***

24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

2) In context, God and wealth are the two masters in the primary focus of what Jesus is talking about here.
3) In fact, Jesus is really quite literal in His last statement.
   a) The word mammona (μαμωνᾷ) has been transliterated in some translations to be mammon,
   b) It definitely has the meaning of wealth or property.
4) However, in view of what we said regarding the non-physical treasures or selfishly wanting the praise of others for our "acts of religious righteousness" could the two masters also be God and self?
5) One could say that anything that we have in our lives that competes with God for our affections, loyalty, honor, or service is, or could become, a "master."

***Does this not really include almost anything we listed as treasure here on earth?***

6) I think the obvious answer here is YES!!!
7) Perhaps, the major point here is Perspective of the Heart.
   a) We all have things in our lives that if not held in proper perspective can become masters.

***So, what are indications we might look for that say these "other things" (treasures) are becoming "THE MASTER"?***

***How do we stop that from happening?"***

   b) Evaluation followed by bring these things to God in prayer.
   c) Pursuing God at the exclusion of whatever it is – in other words, when we have a choice (one we can make) and there is a conflict in our hearts as to which way to go – GO WITH GOD!!

1) So, let's talk about one of those subjects that I'm sure none of us has any problems with – Worry!

***Matthew 6:25–34 (ESV)***

***Do Not Be Anxious***

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be ***anxious*** about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being ***anxious*** can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you ***anxious*** about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,

will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? [31] Therefore do not be ***anxious***, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [32] For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

[34] "Therefore do not be ***anxious*** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be ***anxious*** for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

2) Jesus uses the word anxious 6 times in these few verses (ESV).
   a) Several other versions use worry or worried. The KJV says take no thought for.

***How do you define worry?***

   b) We can probably all agree that when Jesus says, "do not worry" He does not imply complete lack of concern, nor does He call people to be unwilling to work and supply their own needs.
   c) When we worry over lack of food or inadequate clothing, we immobilize ourselves and focus on the worry.
   d) We refuse to trust that God can supply these most basic needs.
      i) Worry immobilizes us, but trust in God moves us to action.

3) Jesus begins these verses with "For this reason" or "Therefore."
   a) It likely refers to all of verses 19 through 24.

***Matthew 6:19–24 (ESV)***

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[22] "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, **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. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

[24] "No **one can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money**.

   b) If we consider all the things we find there:
      i) Do not store up for yourselves treasures here.
      ii) Our priorities must be on proper worship so our "eye is not BAD or dark."
      iii) We must value things other than wealth and earthly things.
      iv) We cannot allow anything to become a master of us other than God.

4) With that in mind, these verses 25 through 34 are Jesus' assurance that if we have our lives aligned to these things we should not worry about the things he points out.
5) To be sure, this is not the "prosperity" gospel.
   a) Jesus is not saying we won't have needs or that times won't be tough occasionally.
   b) He is saying that in those situations we can and must trust God.

6) So, we work for our money to supply food and clothing, but we must always remember that these ultimately come from God's hands.
7) When the need arises, we need not worry, for we know that our God will supply.

***Hard Question! Do we absolutely believe that?***

***Do we always act like we believe that?***

***Why not?***

8) This question really harks back to verse 30 …

**30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!

9) We do not have to believe that we will get exactly everything we ask for.
   a) What we do have to believe and know is that God is always there and will provide as we need. (of course, we must do our part).
   b) We can basically depend on Him in all circumstances.
10) O.k. – let's take a little side trip – if all this is true – then:

***Why are there hungry and starving people in the world?***

   a) This is perhaps one of those unanswerable questions and it is definitely not the point of what Jesus is teaching.
   b) Jesus is not teaching that every case of hunger will be satisfied with food.
   c) Not every hungry person during Jesus' own time was fed, and surely in the course of human history many people would go hungry.
      i) Unfortunately, some would even die for lack of food.
   d) Jesus is teaching us to focus our minds, channeling our efforts, and directing our energies not to mere bodily maintenance for ourselves but to God's eternal purposes.
11) Again, Jesus is continuing to highlight kingdom priorities — the attitude toward life that his disciples should exemplify.
12) We need not be overly concerned about food or clothing because we know that God will care for them.
13) Worrying about food and clothing should never take priority over serving God.
14) Beyond that, in vs 27 we read –

27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

   a) In fact, according to one web site – Health Guidance – there is research to support the idea that chronic worrying may actually shorten a person's lifespan.

15) I love the song that Bobby McFerrin did some years back "Don't Worry – Be Happy."

a) The closing lines perhaps really fit what we are discussing well…

Now there is this song I wrote.
I hope you learned it note for note.
Like good little children
Don't worry, be happy.
Listen to what I say.
In your life expect some trouble.
When you worry you make it double.
Don't worry, be happy, be happy now.