

Treasuring Christ at Christmas: "Where is Your Treasure?"

Matthew 6:19-34

INTRODUCTION:

I. The Location of Treasures (vv.19-24)

- A. Treasures on earth (v.19)
 - 1. The first clear imperative "Do not..."
 - a) "lay up" -- to amass, store up, reserve (element of trust here)
 - b) We cannot ignore the most immediate imperative
 - c) This leaves no room for justification
 - 2. Temporal
 - 3. Destroyed
 - 4. Stolen
- B. Treasures in heaven (v.20)
 - 1. Eternal
 - 2. Lasting
 - 3. Guaranteed
- C. Treasures in the heart (v.21)
 - 1. Treasures reveal value
 - 2. The location of your treasure is a revelation of the heart (now and not yet -- kingdom of God)
- D. Treasures in the eyes (vv.22-23)
 - 1. We look upon that which we value most
 - a) Shopping incessantly? Preoccupation with material possessions?

- b) Guard your eyes
- 2. The warning is most resolutely about spiritual eyes (of reason, conscious, conviction)
 - a) What we gaze upon is what our heart's affection is (or will be) set upon
 - b) When you're serving one master, but claiming another, you don't see clearly - things / direction is very confusing.
- E. Treasure reveals Master (v.24)
 - 1. The location of your treasure reveals the location of your Master (this is a strong call to follow Christ) -- "Cannot" means utter impossibility
 - 2. Our investment reveals our love & worship
 - a) You say, "I don't love money! I love Jesus!"
 - b) Track it.
 - c) This is one of the great disciplines of The Challenge - to shake off the dross and get us thinking aggressively again about eternal matters in relationship to our finances
 - d) Essentially, we see that what we treasure while in this world reveals our truest heart value

II. The Trust of Treasures (vv.25-32)

- A. The second clear imperative "Do not..."
- B. "anxious" -- to have care or give thought to
- C. Anxiety reveals our trust in worldly treasures
 - 1. Daily needs (v.25)

- a) Remember **Hebrews 3?**
- b) Our trust in God is revealed in our trust in God for daily things
- c) We need to clarify: How identity is not bound to what we take in or put on (**Heb.4:13**)
- 2. The Example in the natural world (**vv. 26-30**)
 - a) In the ancient world, they had little beyond the necessities (Life, Food, Clothing)
 - b) We have layer upon layer, but the core problem is the same
- 3. The trouble is lack of faith (**v.30b-32**)
 - a) Anxiety is the antithesis of faith
 - b) **Hebrews 11:6**

III. Treasuring the Treasure (vv.33-34)

- A. Seek His Kingdom & Righteousness
 - 1. Fix your eyes
 - a) On His rule
 - b) On His righteousness
 - c) The only option
 - d) You want to make much of Him by depending upon Him for your needs and treasuring Him as you worship
 - e) THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THIS PASSAGE!
 - 2. You go after what you look at
 - a) Illustration
 - b) **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

- B. Are treasures just set, or can we fight to treasure the right things (the One)?...OR to put it another way, what's the nature of the battle for godliness with contentment?
 - 1. The Treasure of Christ is set upon our conversion (**Mark 10:21**)
 - 2. The Treasuring of Christ is the battle until our deliverance
 - a) Treasuring reminders
 - (1) The gospel
 - (2) It's fruits
 - (3) The Word of Truth
 - (a) **1 Peter 1:18-19**
 - (b) **2 Peter 1:19**
 - (c) **Spurgeon**, "When you are at home on Christmas-day, let no one see your face till God has seen it."
 - b) Treasuring disciplines (**Matthew 6:1-18**) - Give, Pray, Fast
 - c) Treasuring perspectives
 - (1) Look to Christ's return
 - (a) **2 Corinthians 5:6-10**
 - (b) **Hebrews 12:1-2**
 - (2) While here, see people from a spiritual point of view
 - (a) **2 Corinthians 4:11-12,**
 - (b) **2 Corinthians 5:16**

CONCLUSION:

