

Kingdom Investments

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Matthew 6:19-24

Man has a natural inclination to pursue “stuff.” One commentator observes, “*We are strongly inclined to be wrapped up in seeking, acquiring, enjoying, and protecting material possessions.*” Modern media capitalizes on this reality. Advertising thrives on our internal desire for more—faster, newer, better, stronger.

But this struggle is not unique to our century. Luke tells us the Pharisees were “*lovers of money*” (**Luke 16:14**). The human heart has always wrestled with rightly thinking about treasure.

Paul warned Timothy about the danger:

1 Timothy 6:9–10, *But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare [picture a trap that snaps its prey], into many senseless [without reason] and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

Wealth is not evil or good. Nor is poverty automatically virtuous. Wealth is not proof of God’s blessing, and poverty is not proof of His curse. The issue is not possession, it is devotion.

1 Timothy 6:17–19 *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty [arrogant by superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy], nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

I. Treasure Worth Pursuing

A. The Warning About Earthly Treasure (6:19)

1. Jesus warns against hoarding, stockpiling, or living for accumulation.
 - a) It is a warning against indulgence and self-centered ease (see **Luke 12:16–21**).
 - b) God is not forbidding wealth, but He is warning against wealth possessing us.
2. Scripture shows that faithful men had wealth:
 - a) **Abraham** had significant wealth and influence.
 - b) **Job** was wealthy, lost everything, and was later restored (**Job 42:12–17**).
3. The Bible consistently commends diligence and wise stewardship:
 - a) Investing responsibly (**Matthew 25:27**)
 - b) Learning from the ant (**Proverbs 6:6–8**)
 - c) Recognizing profit in honest work (**Proverbs 14:23**)
 - d) Building wisely (**Proverbs 24:3–4**)
 - e) Working faithfully (**Proverbs 28:19**)
 - f) Providing for one’s family (**2 Corinthians 12:14**)
 - g) Rejecting laziness (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**)

B. The Temporary Nature of Earthly Wealth (6:19b)

1. **Moths destroy garments**—valuable clothing was a sign of wealth.
2. **Rust** (literally “eating”) likely refers to stored grain consumed by pests.
3. **Thieves** dig through homes to steal hidden valuables.

C. The Security of Heavenly Treasure (6:20)

1. Heavenly treasure is the only secure treasure.
2. The only absolute security is found there.

D. Treasure Reveals the Heart (6:21)

1. Our will chooses what the mind believes is most valuable, and our affections cling to what the will values.
2. Jonathan Edwards, in his work, Religious Affections: *True religion consists in holy affections arising from seeing the beauty and worth of God.* (Perceived Value → Treasure → Affections → Actions)
 - a) **Philippians 3:8**, *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

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- b) **Psalm 73:25** *Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.*
 - c) **Hebrews 11:26**, *He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.*

II. A Vision Worth Chasing (Matthew 6:22-23)

- A. The Eye as a Lamp
 - 1. A “healthy” eye fills the body with light.
 - 2. A “bad” eye fills the body with darkness.
 - a) **Proverbs 28:22**, *A stingy man [literally, “evil eye”] hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.*
 - b) **Matthew 20:15**, *Or do you begrudge [literally, “evil eye” or “morally evil”] my generosity?*
- B. What We Look At Shapes What We Love
 - 1. **Lamentations 3:51 (KJV)** *Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.*
 - 2. **Proverbs 7:1–3**, *My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; 2 keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; 3 bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.*
 - 3. **Job 31:1**, *“I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?”*
- C. The Wisdom of Proverbs 23.
 - 1. Observe cautiously (v.1)
 - 2. Practice moderation (v.2)
 - 3. Restrain fleshly desire (v.3; see Psalm 141:4)
 - 4. Recognize the fleeting nature of riches (vss.4–5)
 - 5. Avoid corrupting influences (vss.6–8)

III. A Master Worth Serving (Matthew 6:24)

- A. “**No one can serve two masters.**” This is slavery language—not employment language. A slave belongs fully to one master.
- B. The Principle of Undivided Allegiance
 - 1. **Luke 16:13** – You cannot serve God and money.
 - 2. **Romans 6:16** – You are a slave to the one you obey.
 - 3. **James 4:4** – Friendship with the world makes one an enemy of God.
- C. There is no middle ground.
 - 1. John Calvin wrote, “*Where riches hold the dominion of the heart, God has lost His authority.*”
 - 2. “Mammon” came to mean “that in which one trusts.” It functions as a rival god.
- D. Examples of Trusting in Mammon
 - 1. Achan (**Joshua 6–7**)
 - a) A Babylonian cloak, silver, and gold. One man’s misplaced trust brought defeat upon Israel.
 - 2. Solomon (**1 Kings 10–11**)
 - a) Extraordinary wealth. Gradual spiritual compromise.
- E. Examples of Trusting in God
 - 1. Hezekiah – Trusted the Lord in the face of Assyria (**Isaiah 36–37**).
 - 2. David – Faced Goliath trusting in the name of the Lord (**1 Samuel 17:45–47**).