

Matthew 6
Part 2 (19-34)
The commitment of Jesus' followers

In this section Jesus is no longer contrasting His disciples with the scribes and Pharisees. We have seen this since Matt 5:20.

Now He will point out the contrasts between earthly and heavenly rewards and treasures.

- II. Jesus' followers must value heavenly treasures above everything else. (19-21)
 - A. Material possessions must not be treasured to the exclusion of the spiritual. (19)
 1. The earthly things will be removed.
 - a. "Lay up" means to store up, or save. (cf. James 5:3; Lk 12:21)
 - b. "Treasures" means store house or treasure box rather than the treasure itself. (cf. 13:52)
 - c. "Moth" the eating of clothing. (cf. Job 13:28; Isa 50:9; 51:8; Hosea 5:12 James 5:2)
 - d. "Rust" refers to metal but can refer to anything eaten as a waste. An interesting word study.
 - e. "Corrupt" means to destroy. (cf. Acts 13:41; James 4:14)
 - f. "Thief" means one who steals, Greek = "kleptes", kleptomania.
 2. Our focus must not be centered on that which will be lost anyway.
 - B. Spiritual possessions are the only sure ones. (20, 21)
 1. The place where one stores up their treasures reveals their true values.
 2. Jesus wants loyalty.
 3. Where our "treasures" are dictates our loyalty.
- III. His followers are to focus on the pure. (22, 23)
 - A. Beyond the literal, the meaning of "eye" has a moral concept. (22) (cf 5:29; 20:15; Mk 7:22; Eph 1:18)
 1. If the eye is focused the body will be right.
 2. The eye is the light source.
 - a. The eye functions as a lamp to allow us to see.
 - b. "Single" means clear and healthy. Carries the idea of undivided.
 - B. If the eye is not properly focused the body is misguided. (23)
 1. "Evil" means in poor condition, sick. (cf Lk 11:34)
 - a. In the ethical sense, "wicked, bad, worthless, degenerate". (cf 12:35; Lk 6:45)
 - b. An eye which does not function properly does not bring the body real benefit.
 2. When it is supposed to bring light, but brings darkness, disastrous results are sure to happen.
- IV. It is impossible for anyone to serve two masters. (24)
 - A. Being wholly enslaved to one rules out any loyalty to another. (24)
 1. "No man can...", Jesus says it is impossible. That should settle it!
 - a. "Serve" means to perform the duties of a slave. (cf + Acts 20:19; - Gal 4:8)
 - b. One may have two employers, but not two masters. (Wholly devoted)
 - c. "Hate" means to despise, disregard or to be indifferent toward.

- d. This is a comparative sense. Not necessarily dislike, but of a lower loyalty. (cf Lk 14:26 Rom 9:13)
 - 2. “Hold to” means to cling or to be attached.
 - a. To be attached to one master means to let go of the other master.
 - b. “Despise” comes from a word meaning, “to look down on”. (cf Lk 16:13; 1 Tim 4:12; 2 Pet 2:10)
- B. God and mammon are opposites.
 - 1. If one is enslaved to God it will show in their lives. (cf 5:13-16; 7:24-27)
 - 2. If one is enslaved to mammon it will also be evident. (cf Lk 12:16-21; 2 Tim 4:10)
 - a. Mammon means wealth or prosperity.
 - b. This does not teach wealth is wrong.
 - c. If it rivals God for our loyalty it is wrong.
 - d. We can devote ourselves to God or to mammon, but not to both. (cf 10:37-39; 22:37)
- V. His followers are not to worry about physical things. (25-34)
 - A. Jesus is concerned about our material needs. (25)
 - 1. “Take no thought,” means not to be anxious, no anxiety.
 - 2. When the KJV was translated the word *thought* often meant *melancholy*.
 - 3. Not the mental act of thinking but the state of feeling which would result in despondent ideas.

Note: For additional study on the word “Thought” see Matt 10:19; cf Phil 4:6.

 - 4. The object of our anxieties is far less important than the lives and bodies which they supply.
 - a. Food, drink and clothing are basic necessities of life.
 - b. God gave us our lives, therefore He will sustain us.
 - B. Worrying about physical needs is useless. (26-30)
 - 1. The birds do not engage in farming and they don’t starve.

Note: it is not their father who feeds them but your Father.

 - a. Worry can’t improve your life.
 - b. “Cubit” a measure of length.
 - c. “Stature” can mean age or height. (cf Jn 9:21; Lk 19:3)
 - d. Worry can shorten life and happiness.
 - 2. Flowers of the field don’t worry about being clothed.
 - a. “Solomon” is synonymous with magnificence, yet he couldn’t compare to the flowers.
 - b. Since God provides for flowers He surely will provide for His son’s followers.
 - c. Worrying about this type of thing indicates “little faith.”
 - d. Note: This word is only used in reference to Christ’s disciples, those who should have known better! (cf 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; Lk 12:28)
 - C. Jesus’ followers must focus on God. (31-34)
 - 1. “Therefore” is the logical conclusion. That conclusion is to trust God.
 - 2. Those outside God worry about such things.
 - a. The “Gentiles” are people who are without God.
 - b. Without God means they have no cure for worry.

- c. The heavenly Father separates Jesus' followers from the Gentiles.
 - d. Our first priority is to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
3. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof".
- a. The evil we find in a day is enough trouble on its own.
 - b. No point in worrying about tomorrow's trouble today.
 - c. Therefore it follows, no point in worrying about tomorrow.

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