

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Committed to Contentment

Matthew 6:19-21

Questions

- Do you confine your ambition, interests, and hopes to this life?
- What are you really devoted to?
- What are you passionate about?
- Are you trying to combine devotion to things with loyalty to Christ?

Luke 6:20

“Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God....but woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

Luke 14:33

“Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 18:25

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Luke 12:15

“One’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Over and over Jesus is relentless in His radical call.

- In previous verses, Jesus has dealt with how temptations come from the flesh and the devil.
- The devil is very watchful when you are engaged in practices of spiritual disciplines.
- Having dealt with that, Jesus now proceeds to show that there is another problem, and that problem is the world itself.

THE EXHORTATION

HOARDING IS IDOLATRY

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth....but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Matthew 6:19a, 20a

- Our Lord puts the truth in such a way that we are without excuse!

NEGATIVELY

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...” Matthew 6:19a

- Where do you get your satisfaction? Living Word or life’s world?
- How do you lay up treasures on earth with respect to these things?
- And does Jesus forbid possession of personal property in itself?
- It is in the attitude towards any of these that sin is conceived.

POSITIVELY

“...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Matthew 6:20a

- Jesus is not saying that we can achieve salvation through works.
- If you have riches in this world, use them in such a way that you will be building up a balance in the next.
- Matthew 25:34-44, Matthew 7:21-23, Luke 18:24
- The fatal flaw is trusting in riches, earthly treasures. Self-confidence makes it impossible for anyone to be “poor in spirit.”

NEED THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE, ESPECIALLY OF HEAVEN!

- Hebrews 11
- What made Abraham ready to sacrifice his son Isaac? He “desired a better, that is a heavenly country.”
- If we remember we are pilgrims in this world, we immediately take a right view of our gifts and our possessions; truly stewards, not permanent holders, who must give an account to God.

THE REASON

WHEN HAVE YOU SEEN A U-HAUL BEHIND A HEARSE?

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” Matthew 6:19-20

- Earthly goods are given to be used, not collected. Possessions tend to turn the hearts of the disciple away from Jesus.
- Proverbs 23:5
- If your heart is devoted to the mirage of the world, to the creature instead of the Creator, you're lost. You are ripe for the picking.
- John 10:10, Luke 8:14
- Where do we draw the line between legitimate use and unlawful accumulation? How can I use these gifts for God's glory?

THE EXPLANATION

THE FRUIT OF OUR PASSION

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

- Jesus is speaking of the fruit of our passions. For disciples of Jesus Christ, it is the essence of peace and joy of their lives
- The Christian says, “I must be careful how I use these things, and of my attitude toward them. I must do all the things He tells me to do in order that I may please/glorify God.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:31, 2 Corinthians 5:9

Cutting it Straight in 2008 Committed to Contentment

Generous people are the happiest people on earth

- Proverbs 14:21, Proverbs 22:9, 1 Timothy 6:9
- Is Jesus Christ my treasure? If so, I surrender my will to His.
- Galatians 2:20, Matthew 7:21-23.

Heavenly humility

- Romans 3:10-12

If Christ is my Treasure, I deny myself.

- Luke 9:23-26

Paul's principles for contentment

- 1 Timothy 6:3-12, 17-19

The Heavenly Investment of Home

As a husband: if you surrender to Christ, you make every decision based on what is best for your wife.

- Ephesians 5:28-31

As a wife: if you surrender your will to Christ, you submit your desires to your husband.

- Ephesians 5:22-24, 33b

As a child: if you surrender to Christ, you'll honor your parents.

- Ephesians 6:1-3