

## What Do You Value?

Matthew 6:19-24

Authenticity

(Sermon on the Mount, Part 3)

We have been studying the Sermon on the Mount – Recall how it started? – Seeing the Multitude – Jesus called his disciples.

A) His focus was to train this group of believers – to reach the multitudes when He was gone.

B) That is always the way that Jesus does – He uses a few to reach the masses.

C) Here is the million dollar question: who will be a part of the Few?

D) That is the issue that is forever on the heart of Jesus:

Here in this 3<sup>rd</sup> section of the sermon on the MT Jesus gives us a clue concerning what he is looking for in the lives of those he works through

A) Sum up this section with the word: Authenticity!

B) Saw in V.1-18 Concerning spiritual activity this is what an authentic believer looks like –  
1) He is not engaging in spiritual activity to be seen and heard by men.

C) Giving, Praying, Fasting - NOT TO BE SEEN BY MEN

1) NO – HIS HEART IS TO GLORIFY GOD!  
TODAY IN OUR TEXT: Jesus reveals that the AUTHENTIC believer is seen in what He Values!

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.

Interesting to me what an infant or toddler values! – They will hold a plastic toy – a ring in their hand - worth – 50 cents

A) Clutch that like their life depended on it

B) IF TODDLERS COULD talk - don't be looking at my ring . You come over here and it is going to be on.

1) You are going down

C) You walk up to that little guy – pull on that ring – pull it out of his hand.

1) Screaming – LIKE YOU killed him

D) If you walked up to him – offered to trade – a \$100 bill or a \$1000 bill for that ring – NO WAY!

1) Not giving up my shiny yellow ring for that ugly green paper

He has no idea what he is turning down – see the Problem with little kids is they OFTEN value things that are not valuable.

A) I wonder if Heaven – feels the same way about us!

B) They watch us placing all this effort and energy and passion in valuing things that in the big scheme of things are not very valuable at all.

C) Think about what you value? – What is precious to you?

1) Answer this question how valuable will that be in 100 million yrs!

D) You say: What does it matter – I won't be here? – True – but you will be somewhere

See here is the thing we must NEVER FORGET as believers – LATER IS LONGER!

A) This life is like a short walk in the park compared to eternity!

B) This life is like the Prologue to a book – the setup of the story before the real story!

C) Eternity is the real deal! LATER IS LONGER

D) What we do here AND how we invest here is going to affect the OUTCOME OF HOW we enjoy eternity AND what we are going to be doing in Eternity!

So God in His word is ALWAYS – TRYING TO GET US TO LIVE WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW.

A) This passage is another Example of that:

B) Five things I want us to consider as we break down this text today:

### #1 Consider The nature of treasures

A) It is all Relative: EVERYONE HAS TREASURES!

**“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”**

B) Most of us have probably experienced – taking that thing your house just has no use for it anymore.

1) Set it out at the curb – FREE

C) You have already decided: If no one picks it up today- going to the dump!

1) You watch as a truck pulls up and a couple gets out – **LOOK ON THEIR FACE - WE SCORED!!!**

D) All happy – Your trash just became their treasure.

**Maybe you have been on the other end of that – My wife – I need to borrow your truck**

A) What did you see?

B) She is all excited – found something – just perfect for the house –

C) She found something that someone else **was going to throw away.**

**So Treasure is Relative – don’t be thrown off by that word!**

A) The people listening to Jesus knew exactly what He was talking about although most of the people in his audience were relatively poor.

B) For most of them their most prized possession was the coat on their backs and if you happened to have two coats or cloaks – that was a big deal!

C) But here is the thing we need to understand: A treasure IS NOT ONLY what you hold in your hand

1) A treasure is that what holds your heart!  
Treasures have to do with the Heart affections

**We get our English term, "thesaurus," from the Greek word for "treasures." A thesaurus is a treasure chest of words and phrases.**

A) Here the treasure chest is in our hearts - it is that which we hold dear in our hearts.

B) A treasure is that upon which you place your affections and attention.

1) It is that which you value above other things.

Kent Hughes points out, "If anything in this world is everything to you, it is an earthly treasure"

**C) It may be money, stocks or possessions but it is not limited to those things**

D) King Saul's greatest treasure was what others thought about him.

E) He wanted to be honored before men more than having the approval of God.

1) So his whole attitude and behavior was "tethered" to his honor and reputation; and in the end he lost all of it.

F) **WHAT ARE YOU TETHERED TO: What has you tied down?**

**We must clarify that Jesus was not banning possessions for Authentic followers.**

A) Scripture never condemns having things but only loving things above the interests of the King.

B) Also important to note that Jesus is not forbidding Christians to save and store up resources for future needs.

1) The Proverbs 6:6-8 Bible uses the example of the Ant as an example of wisdom in Saving/Storing up for the future.

C) Paul says in 1 Timothy 5:8 **that a man who doesn’t take care of his family’s needs is worse than an unbeliever.**

**Many of the heroes of the Bible had Material wealth!**

A) Abraham had much wealth, Job had much wealth, David had much wealth - And so did Solomon.

B) Now Solomon is the only one who was condemned for it – but have you ever considered why?

C) Deut. 17:17 gives us insight into the reason:

D) There God is encouraging future Kings to not be guilty of storing up wealth – but don't miss the key word in the passage

1) **“nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.”** –

E) They were not suppose to multiply money for themselves

**David used his wealth to get everything ready for his son Solomon to build a temple for God**

A) Solomon on the other hand used his wealth to buy weird things for himself –

**“For the king had at sea a navy of with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks for the King (Solomon).”** – I Kings 10:22

**B) David is buying things for the future temple**

1) Solomon is buying peacocks and monkeys and weird stuff for his house

**C) God blessed Solomon with Wealth – that wealth was supposed to be the means for which Solomon – took care of his calling – To Care for God's people**

1) **Instead:** Solomon used what God had given him for primarily his own pleasure and amusement.

**Point - There is nothing wrong with having money, what is wrong is the way that you use it!**

A) Wealth can be a tool – or it can be your MASTER

B) SO - The nature of a treasure is anything that you really value

**#2 The Problem with Earthly treasures:**

A) They don't last – Temporal – Moths eat – Rust destroys – thieves..... steal

B) Growing up one of my most valued possessions was my baseball card collection.

1) Had some good ones too – Hall of famers – ROOKIE CARDS – Worth something –

2) Steroid hall of fame (**Bonds and McGwire**)

D) Shoe box – Rubber banded - Traveled with us

1) Moved 7 times – moved from Oregon - rafters

1) HEAT - Melted – Worthless

**That is what happens to treasures here**

A) Car Depreciate – Cars gets scratched –

B) We can be so Protective: Expensive Car who park - 2 spaces at Home Depot –

1) Sideways – Five – (Key)

C) Now Our treasures may cost more than the plastic ring a child thinks is SO valuable but in light of eternity they are just as valueless.

D) So and so just bought a ..... Guess what, he is not driving that into Heaven!

E) So the Problem with Treasures here is that they are **TEMPORAL – DON'T LAST!**

**#3 Treasures are like a Mirror**

A) They reflect our hearts – **“where your treasure is your heart will be there also.”**

B) Spend sometime with someone – doesn't take long for their treasure to be revealed.

1) It is what they talk about the most!

C) It is always on their mind – **“Out of the abundance of the Heart the mouth speaks.”**

D) God wants our treasure to be Him! – Heaven

**“Therefore since you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Col 3)**

A) Now I admit – that is easier said than done – because we live in this world that is so Constant

B) We all have daily responsibilities – Our jobs

C) Daily priorities – **(I work at a Church and I still find this hard)**

D) We live in this world that is full of Chaos and corruption

1) Constant battle to not get fixated on the HORIZONTAL - VERTICAL

E)CAREFUL – That we are not Preoccupied with how to get along or get ahead in this life

1)That we forget about **THE NEXT LIFE!**  
**LATER IS LONGER!**

Live with a lighter grip on the things of this life

Jim Elliott: He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

Missionary Couple – Return from Africa – **We are not home yet dear!**

**#4 THERE IS Another type of treasure:**

A) They are Heavenly **“Don’t store up treasures on earth..... treasure in heaven.”**

B)Difference between treasures on earth vs treasure in Heaven ?

1)**Treasures on earth fade – treasures in heaven last – LASTING VALUE!**

To "store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" implies that we seek to live with a different worldview than our counterparts in the world.

A)We live with eternity in view.

B)We live with the knowledge that one-day we WILL stand before the Lord to give an account for our lives!

C)WE ARE all going to answer for what the Lord has ENTRUSTED TO US!

**It is really the difference between being an Earthbound Believer and a Heaven bound believer**

A)Joseph Stowell – Wrote a Book called Eternity Great read – Older book

**“Earth Bound believers live the most important segments of their lives only in the context of this world. Their expectations dreams hopes & plans all relate to what they can acquire & Experience Now.”**

**We see our Careers as Platforms for our own Significance & Security not as a means to advance the Kingdom of Christ or as a Platform upon which the Values of the King can be seen!**

We are Content to Sing about Heaven & to hear sermons about the authority of Christ & the values of His Kingdom but we fail to live here in

light of there. And when it is all said & done we look back upon our lives and see that we have poured into the Bottomless bucket of this world & the Bucket is still empty.”

I love that description: Bottomless bucket!

A)Doesn’t life often feel that way – pour in pour in and it never fills up!

B)Never full! – Never satisfied in this life!

C)God has placed eternity in our hearts – made to live for something – someone – someplace – greater than this place.

D)The things of this world never SATISFY  
1)ONLY JESUS CAN SATISFY.... HEARTS

E)TODAY OPEN HEART TO HIM!

**Life is not about here and now – there and then**

**#5 How do we store up treasure in Heaven?**

**1<sup>st</sup> By being good stewards:**

Parable of the talents – MATTHEW 25:14

**STORY about a land owner – Who goes away on a trip – Entrust – talents – wealth to 3 servants**

A)DO BUSINESSUNTIL I COME!

B)2 Of the servants – take what has been entrusted to them and they use it - Multiply

C)When the Master comes back – They are rewarded

D)One servant did nothing – buried it – what he had was taken away!

**The point of the parable: Our Master has gone – BUT HE IS COMING BACK – SOON!**

A)We all have been entrusted with things by the Lord.

B)OUR Time: How to use it ? Talents and Resources – How to use them?

C)Even - OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

**I believe that this is one of the most critical issues that Christians need to grasp.**

A) It sets kingdom citizens apart from the citizens of this world.

B) It is the difference between viewing life as a DAILY GRIND – to BEING ON MISSION.

YOU begin to believe that God has placed us where we need to be, having provided jobs, relationships, schools, and 100'S of other issues that we daily face.

A) It is all a part of His plan – His purpose.

B) He has given each of us a sphere of influence and responsibilities – talents

1) How we use them is going to determine how we are rewarded!

J.S. Eternity “When we are consumed with the reality of Heaven, Christ is free to Consume us on earth. When we realize that final gain is there and then we are free to live for Him here and Now!”

#### #5 How do we store up treasure in Heaven?

1<sup>st</sup> By being good stewards

2<sup>nd</sup> By doing good deeds –

Cup of cold water – Matthew 10:42 <sup>42</sup> And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

#### MOTIVATION FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!

Hebrews 6:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

#### Can't take it with you but you can send it ahead

A) STORING UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN – SERVICE DONE FOR THE LORD!

#### #5 How do we store up treasure in Heaven?

1<sup>st</sup> By being good stewards

2<sup>nd</sup> By doing good deeds

3<sup>rd</sup> By giving good gifts -

“I can tell a lot more about a man by looking in his checkbook more than his devotion book.” DL Moody

#### Tithing makes people uncomfortable:

A) Stalker - 50 messages – Weird lady

B) Tithe = 10<sup>th</sup> - not 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> – not tithing – 5<sup>th</sup> ☺

C) Tithing is an OT thing – it is a law thing

1) NT – We are free – not required

D) That is the Problem: People see it as a requirement instead of a blessing. (RAISING KIDS – GIVERS)

God almighty – says: I Don't need you – but give you the opportunity to partner with me in my mission.

A) In your Serving and through your giving!

B) Stewardship: Everything we have belongs to Him

He asks that we give 10 percent - Keep 90% Some Pastors never talk about it – Whole counsel - mature believers

#### We see tithing all throughout the scripture.

1. Before the Law with Abraham and Melchizedek – Genesis 14:20
2. In the Law – Numbers 7
3. In the New Testament – Matthew 23:23

Jesus commends the Pharisees for tithing or giving 10 percent herbs and mint – but he rebukes them for forgetting the other parts of the law.

A) And I believe WE see Paul giving a great model in I Corinthians 16:2 of New Testament giving

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper,” – I Corinthians 16:2

B) #1 – It needs to be consistent (PLANNED – laying my tithe aside – I Corinthians 16:2

C) #2 – It needs to be generous – I Corinthians 16:2 Profit – not left overs

**D)#3 – It needs to be cheerful – II Corinthians 9:6,7**

**“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” – II Corinthians 9:6,7**

**God loves it when – Give cheerfully out of gratitude for all He has done for us!**

A) Sometimes people take this verse to mean that if I can't give cheerfully – NOT GIVING AT ALL!

B) That is not an accurate interpretation of this verse!

1) God expects obedience the same way – you as a parent do.

C) He asks us at times to do things that are going to be good for us – even if we don't like it at the time.

D) My kids eating veggies – MAKE FACES –

1) Forget it don't worry about it – No –THEY WERE EATING THEIR VEGGIES

**SOMETIMES SUBJECT OF tithing comes up we make faces – Offering**

A) God says this is good for you!

B) Notice the promise in Paul's words 2 Cor. 9:6 Paul takes this beyond the 10% model

**“those who sow sparingly you are going to reap sparingly, those who sow bountifully you are going to reap bountifully.”**

C) There is a blessing in Giving – You are going to Reap! –

1) So much a blessing – God begs us to test Him on this -

**Test me Malachi 3:10 (ESV)**

**<sup>10</sup> Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. (local church) And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.**

**This is not to be our MOTIVATION FOR GIVING**

**But it is a Promise to those who give!**

A) Never out give God

B) God says Partner with me – watch what I do in your heart – Thru your life

C) Thankful for those of you who get this – I have watched how the Lord takes care of you.

D) I pray more of us would take him up on this.

Wrap up

**22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**

**Your treasure is going to be the thing that you are focused on - Has YOUR EYE!**

A) BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT – you cannot serve two Masters –

B) Cannot serve God and Mammon – Wealth and Possessions

1) So let your money be your tool and not your master.

C) Invest in the Kingdom.

1) Where your treasure is your heart will be there also.

**Sum up this first section Authentic believers take God at his Word - Live by faith**

A) In faith that DO IT!

B) JUST DO IT – NIKE – NO BIBLE

C) TODAY WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION

1) WE GIVE Time, Talents, Resources - Because He gave His all for us