

Study Guide

Money Part II, Matt. 6:19-24

In Matt. 6:19 Jesus commands us “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.” Why does he assume our desire is to store up treasures for ourselves on earth? Why is he so concerned about changing this desire in us?

What is Jesus’ answer/alternative to storing up treasures on earth? What are the reasons that Jesus gives to choose this option over storing up treasures on earth? (There are at least 4 given in Matt 6:19-24)

Read verses 22-23. Most commentators agree that there is a double meaning in the adjectives used to describe the eye in these verses. The word translated as the “healthy” eye in v. 22 could also be translated as the “generous” eye. And the word translated as the “unhealthy” eye in v. 23 could also be translated as the “miserly” eye. How does this play on words affect what you think Jesus is trying to say here?

Verse 24 could be translated more literally as “No one can be a slave of two masters.” In other words, the emphasis is on ownership, belonging. How do you feel about the idea that money/possessions are a serious threat to your belonging to God?

Dale Bruner suggests that a helpful substitute word for treasure/wealth in this passage is “success.” What would need to change in the way you live if “you cannot serve God and Success?”

How do we store up treasure in heaven? Jesus identifies one way in Matt. 19:21. Are there places in the Bible that identify additional ways?

Take some time this week to set up a heavenly investment plan. How can you change so that you can free up more of your money and possessions and convert them into heavenly treasure?