

Pursuing What is Valuable How to Identify It

Matthew 6:19 - 24

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19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad (evil), your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money/wealth.

Verses 19-21

Pursue eternal treasure – that which is truly valuable.

The Reason

Pursuing eternal treasure changes the location of your heart.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

How to identify what you value and where you are storing “treasures”...

- Where do you spend your time?
- What do you think about often?
- Where do you spend your resources?
- You eliminate other activities so you can pursue this one.
- What are your motives?

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:1

“You cannot take it with you but you
can send it ahead.”

Where is the bulk of your treasure
right now?

Not religion but living in relationship
with Jesus and living your life
with/for Him.

2 Corinthians 4:18

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Verses 22,23

Your ability to “see” is critical to your ability to store up treasures in heaven.

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad (evil), your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Lenses

Graham Cooke – Mind of a Saint

Lenses, in the natural, block or bend the light and distort or improve your vision.



WITH



WITHOUT

In the spiritual realm, lenses block or bend perspective so that you see from a distorted perspective or increase in alignment with God's perspective.

2 Corinthians 4:4 – “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel...”

The enemy gives us different lenses. Mark 8

¹⁴Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵“Watch out!” He cautioned them. “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod.” ¹⁶So they began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread.

¹⁷Aware of their conversation, Jesus asked them, “Why are you debating about having no bread? **Do you still not see** or understand? Do you have such hard hearts? ¹⁸**‘Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?’** And do you not remember?

A “God” lens change:

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets also wrote: Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “**Can anything good be from Nazareth?**” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered Him, “**Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!**”

John 1:45-49

How do you cooperate with God for a lens change?

Shift the source for your “truth” from whatever else is influencing it above the Word of God.

- Social Media
- “News” media
- “Christian” podcasts and media

Regardless of source – ask for wisdom and revelation from the Lord.

A HUGE lens change we all need!

The Christian life is NOT about behavior modification.

The Christian Life is about discovering the fullness of your identity in Christ and living from that identity.

Romans 6:1-14

Romans 6:1-14

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for the one who has died is freed from sin.

Romans 6:8-14

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all time; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore sin is not to reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your body's parts as instruments of righteousness for God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace.

Growing as a follower of Jesus is not about behavior modification .

Life in Christ is about living out of who we are rather than reforming the old man.

If you think you are just a sinner, you will sin by faith.

If you believe you are a new creation, when you sin, you will recognize that is not who you are.

(The place of your next “upgrade” – Graham Cooke)

What do you know and what do you believe?

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (vs. 3)

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be ‘rendered powerless’ that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.” (vs. 6)

“For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him...In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus....For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Application

Adopt a Divine Perspective

1. Study and believe what and who God says you are in Christ.
2. Stand on the Word when you face struggles.
3. Stand on the Word and be active in ministry to others.

Who are you?

Gaining victory during struggles

Truths about you...

Luke 10:19 – power over the enemy

2 Corinthians 10:4,5 – divine weapons

Matthew 18:18 – binding and loosing

James 4:7-10 –

Treasures stored up by righteous living

James 1:12

Treasures for ministry to others

- Warfare on behalf of others
- Ministering grace to others

Matt. 10:42 – cup of cold water

1 Peter 4:10, 11 – use your gift

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10

Again...

the lens change comes through the Word

Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

Romans 12:1,2

Point #3

Who you serve determines the location of
your treasure

24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money/wealth.

You can do the same activity and on one hand be serving God and on the other hand be serving the spirit of this age.

Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven

Seek to have “clear” eyes by going to scripture as your source of truth.

Seek to live your entire life for God by the power of the Spirit.