

Matthew 6.19-34 / Hephzibah Baptist Church / 08.19.18

Command 1: Build treasure in _____, not on Earth [6.19-24].

Reason 1: Everything on Earth is temporal and thus _____. On the other hand, treasure in Heaven is eternal, permanent [6.19-20].

Reason 2: The more you focus on material things, the less you can focus on _____ things [6.21].

Reason 3: A focus on material things _____ a heart with the wrong priorities. If you have the right priorities, you will focus on spiritual things [6.21].

Reason 4: The more you focus on material things, the more _____ you will become, maybe even greedy, jealous, covetous... Your focus changes you over time [6.22-23]!

If you dwell on the things of the flesh, you will live in spiritual _____! On the other hand, if you focus on Jesus, on his promises and salvation, on his way of life and values, on following his example for a life of blessing others and glorifying God, then you will have God's light!

Reason 5: You cannot serve both God and _____. You need to decide which will be your master! Which will dominate your thinking, provide purpose and direction, bring enjoyment and satisfaction? Don't say both! Jesus says that is impossible; you would end up fixated on, and thus owned by, money, while growing to despise God and his ways [6.24].

Prayerful reflection: What does the evidence from your checkbook and credit card statements say about your focus, is it accumulating material things for yourself or serving Christ? What does the evidence of your time management and calendar say? What adjustments should you make to serve God more and money less?

Command 2: Do not worry about even the _____ of life [6.25-32].

Prayerful reflection: Do you have much anxiety about life? How can you learn to trust God more and worry less?

Reason 1: Make your purpose and focus all about _____, instead of yourself [6.25].

Reason 2: _____ God for provision [6.26]. You are made in God's image, redeemed by the blood of Christ, indwelt by the Holy Spirit: you are more important than anything else in the universe!

Reason 3: Worry or _____ does no good. It probably will do harm [6.27].

Reason 4: When we live in fear, anxiety, we reveal we have little _____ in God. We might trust him with our salvation, but we still do not trust him with day to day life [6.28-30].

Prayerful reflection: How much do you worry about losing your income or not making ends meet? How can you learn to not worry, rather trusting God more for provision?

Command 3: Seek first God's _____ and _____. [6.31-34]

This is how you accumulate treasure in Heaven!

Step 1: "Seek first" means "make this your highest _____." NET: "...above all pursue his kingdom and righteousness..." This whole passage has been leading up to this point: set your heart on the treasure in Heaven; set your eye on God and his ways; make God your master and focus on serving him; stop worrying about provision; pursue God's kingdom and righteousness. In other words, choose to focus on God and the things of God instead of yourself and the things of the world.

Step 2: Pursue God's _____. God created you to be his image-bearer, and part of that is to reflect God's character. As a believer in Jesus, you have been given new spiritual life and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who now is at work to purify you to have the character of Christ, who is the perfect reflection of God the Father. You need to learn the ways of God and learn how to live them out day to day.

Prayerful reflection: In what ways is it difficult for you to pursue God's righteousness? Are there obstacles to this in your life, your attitudes? Are you willing to declare right now to God that you are ready to be owned by him, you are ready to have Christ as your lord and master, you will do whatever you learn in scripture or are prompted by the Spirit to do? Go ahead! If you hesitate, why?

Step 3: Pursue God's _____. Pursue a relationship with Jesus, God the Father's anointed eternal king. Devote yourself to him, depend on him, submit to him, learn from him, obey him, follow his example, seek to better represent him, develop a relationship with him. Pursue the gospel mission of multiplying discipleship Christ gave to believers in the church.

Prayerful reflection: Do you think you have a good relationship with Jesus? How could you improve it? How could you be more involved in God's kingdom work?

Reason: God promises to give you everything you _____. You can trust him in this! He does not give you everything you want, but he promises to equip and empower you to do the work he has for you, so he will provide you with physical necessities as well as spiritual necessities.

Prayerful reflection: How ready are you to trust that God will keep this promise, that he will provide everything you need? If you have any hesitation, why? Even if you say you are ready, why is it difficult to trust God and continue walking by faith and obedience when we struggle in life?