

Matt 6 v19-24 God & money, treasure & eyes

1) Introduction

2) Broader context

3) Treasures on earth.

4) Treasures in heaven.



5) Heart where your treasure is

6) The eye is the lamp of the body.



7) No one can serve both God & money



Pirate Pete & his crew

Treasure hunts when we were younger

As we grow up material things start to matter more

**Our consumer society tells us repeatedly:
You need this to be happy, then that, then this also . .**

Then Jesus says “Do not store up . . .”

Does he just want to spoil the fun?

2) Broader context

God is a happy God:

“concerning the glory of the **blessed** God” 1 Tim 1v11

Our desire for happiness is legitimate:

“God, who richly provides us with everything **for our enjoyment.**” 1 Tim 6 v17

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and **to enjoy him** for ever.
(Westminster shorter catechism)

3) Treasures on earth (v19)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . .
. . where moths & vermin (or rust) destroy & where thieves break in & steal”

What are these treasures?



Why not store them up?

Treasures have a limited life.

You should want to bless others “blessed are the merciful . .” Mt 5 v7

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous & willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves . . . for the coming age . . .”

1 Tim 6 v17-19a

2 principles:

Put your hope in God not material things.

Use the material of this world in the light of the world to come.

4) Treasures in heaven (v20)

“but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. .
. . where moths & vermin (or rust) do not destroy & where thieves do not
break in & steal”

What are these treasures?



Why are they better than those on earth?
They last forever.
They make us truly happy.

5) Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

Note the progression:

v19/20 “storing up treasures”

v21 “. . . where your treasure is your heart will be also.”

v24 we can only serve one master:
God (in heaven) or
Money (on earth).

How important is your heart?

“Above all else guard your heart, it is the well spring of life” Prov 4 v23

6) The eye is the lamp of the body (v22-23)



“If your eyes are healthy (good), your whole body will be full of light.
If your eyes are unhealthy (bad), your whole body will be full of darkness.”

Lamp in the bible can mean:

Life: “. . . so the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished” 2 Sam 21 v17

Guide: “your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path” Ps 119 v105

The word for healthy/good can mean ‘generous’ or ‘singleness of purpose’

Other verses about eyes:

“My eyes have grown dim with grief,” Job 17 v7

“the LORD hates . . . haughty eyes,” Prov 6 v17

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened . .” Eph 1 v18

Understanding mechanics of sight then & now

Eyes are the gate to the heart

“If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!” v23b

If we don't keep the eyes of our heart healthy . .

. . we go blind!

Not physical but spiritual sight:

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Heb 11 v1

“ . . even though you do not see him now you believe in him & are filled with an inexpressible & glorious joy.” 1 Pet 1 v8b

“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law” Ps 119 v18

When you use your eyes – what do you see, where do you linger?

“Be careful little eyes what you see
It's the second glance that ties your hands
As darkness pulls the strings . .
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see
For the Father up above is looking down in love
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.”

(from “Slow fade” Casting Crowns)

7) No one can serve two masters (v24)

“You cannot serve both God & Money – you will love one & hate the other”

We have an important choice to make.

In our consumer culture this is not as easy as it looks.

Listen to Paul:

“I know what it is to be in need, & I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any & every situation . . . I can do all this through him who gives me strength” Phil 3 v12-13

“Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it. . . For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil ” 1 Tim 6 v6,10

Christians can live a simple life & be content.
A powerful witness in our consumer culture

Summing up

God is a happy God.

Our desire for happiness is legitimate.

Put your hope in God not material things (hold things lightly)

Use the material of this world in the light of the world to come
(be generous not greedy).

The heart – guard it above all things.

Eyes are the gate to the heart (works both ways).



Are you keeping your eyes/heart healthy?

Where are you storing up treasure? Where is your heart?

Is God or money your master?

“Oh, be careful little eyes what you see

For the Father up above is looking down in love

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see” (from “Slow fade” Casting Crowns)