

Matthew 6:19 - 7:12 A Seeking Attitude: Possessions and People

MATT 6:19-24 WHERE IS OUR TREASURE?

v19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth: Jesus warns of about laying up treasure for ourselves in **Lk 12:15-34**. In that parable, the rich man plans to “pull down barns and build greater” but he doesn’t realise his life is short: “So is he that lays up treasure for himself”. Jesus warns of the deceitfulness of riches in **Mk 4:18-20**. God’s Word is full of warnings about covetousness and riches: **Ex 20:17; Deut 17:14-20; Josh 7:20-21; Ps 17:14; 49:6-20; Prov 11:4,28; Eccl 1:8; Mt 19:24; Col 3:5; 1 Tim 6:9-10; Jas 5:1-3**. Treasures will be a liability in the day judgment: **Prov 11:4; Zeph 1:8-18**. Consider Judas: **Jn 12:6; Acts 1:18**. **Moth:** Symbol of external corruption. **Rust:** Internal corruption.

v20 Treasures in heaven: Godliness with contentment is great gain: **1 Tim 6:6-8**. Consider also **Ecc 5:13-15; Isa 33:5-9; Lk 3:14; 2 Cor 12:9-10; Phil 4:11-13; Heb 13:8**. Present circumstances are not important compared with eternity. God is rather concerned about our character. The gospel is a free gift, not a business venture: **Isa 55:1; Act 8:20; 1 Pet 5:2**. The great challenge through the ages has been to see beyond the present. To trust in things not seen, to look for a future reward: **Job 1:21; Heb 11:6,10,13,39-40**. “How much better to get understanding than choice silver”: **Prov 16:16**. We should count the loss of worldly things as gain for Christ: **Phil 3:4-8,20**.

v21 Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also: We talk about what we love: **Psa 37:3-7; 73:25-26**. What we think about we become. We should cry after knowledge, seeking wisdom as riches: **Prov 2:1-6; 1 Tim 6:18-19**. The Kingdom is a precious pearl of great price: **Mt 13:46**. Think of real treasures in **Psa 72; Isa 35; Isa 32:14-18; 41:18-20; 65:17-25; Mic 4:1-5; Rev 21:1-7; 22:1-5**. The Saints are treasure to God: **Mal 3:17**. They are Yahweh’s “inheritance”: **Psa 33:12; Eph 1:7,18**. We are promised a crown of life in God’s Kingdom: **Jas 1:12; 2:5**. The restoration of Zion should be our greatest joy: **Psa 137:5-6**. If we are Christ’s we will be with him then: **Col 3:1-4**.

v22 The light of the body is the eye: The only organ in the body that can interpret light. Light is a symbol of God’s Word and we are called to walk as children of light: **Eph 5:8; Lk 12:35**. See notes on **Mt 5:15-16**. **If thine eye be single:** Singleness of purpose. Our eyes must be on one prize: **Eph 1:17-18; Psa 19:8; 123:1-2; Jas 1:8**. This affects our conscience: **Prov 20:27; Jas 1:22-25**.

v23 But if thine eye be evil: If we focus on darkness, that is what we become: **Jn 3:19; Rom 13:13; 1 Jn 2:8-11**. A greedy man in a rush to be rich has an evil eye: **Duet 15:7-11; Prov 23:6-8; 28:22**.

v24 Cannot serve two masters: We are servants to whoever we choose to obey: **Mt 4:10; Rom 6:16-23**. God never condemns prudent use of money: **1 Tim 5:8**. However, the love of money is literally “the root of all kinds of evil”: **1 Tim 6:10**.

Colour code: Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for 2015 New Zealand Youth Conference. Acknowledgments: NZYC15 notes, Matt 5-7 notes by Jim Luke, talks by Carl Parry and Jona Lawson. For a pdf file email acdangerfield@webshield.net.au. Note: Not all text is included due to space restrictions.

MATT 6:25-34 IN WHOM DO WE PLACE OUR TRUST?

v25 Therefore: A direct link to the previous words. **Take no thought for your life:** NIV “Do not worry”. Emphasis 6x: **Mt 6:25,27,28,31,34, 34**. Do not be anxious, but take all things to God in prayer: **Phil 4:4-10; 1 Pet 5:6-7**. Two examples are now given to prove this, birds and lilies.

v26 Behold the fowls of the air: God’s creation teaches us: **Job 12:7**. Birds are up early and are diligent. They still have to get their food. But they are free from burdens. God has built into his creation a beautiful synergy. **Nor gather into barns:** A reference to **Lk 12:15-24**. **Your Heavenly Father feeds them:** **1 Kgs 17:6; Job 38:41; Ps 147:7-9**. Key verses: **Lk 10:38-40**. We need to sit at the feet of Jesus as first priority, as Mary did. Jesus Christ is the bread of life: **Jn 6:27,48-58**. **Are ye not much better:** Ironic how many rich people work longer hours despite riches. Our life is short and so is the world: **Psa 39:4-7; 90:12; Jas 4:14; 1 Jn 2:17; 2 Pet 3:10-12**.

v27 NIV “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”

v28 Raiment: The western world is obsessed with fashion. **Consider the lilies:** They do not strive to outdo each other. **Neither do they spin:** ie. to make clothes: **Ex 35:25**.

v29 Solomon not arrayed like one of these: Consider **1 Kgs 10:5-7**. He had it all, but concluded that all is vanity: **Ecc 1:2**. He concluded “Fear God and keep His commandments” **Ecc 12:12**.

v30 Into the oven: cp. **Isa 40:6-8**. Believers are born again not of corruptible seed: **1 Pet 1:23-25**. **Shall he not clothe you:** A far greater clothing is promised, that of salvation and immortality. To be clothed by Christ: **Isa 61:10; 2 Cor 5:2-4; 1 Pet 3:3-4; Rev 3:5,18; 7:9; 8-9,14**. We must clothe ourselves in humility: **1 Pet 5:5**. **O ye of little faith:** In **Lk 12:29** he adds “neither be ye of doubtful mind”.

v31 What shall we eat: Allusion to **Ex 15:23-25** and **Lev 25:20-21**.

v32 Do the Gentiles seek: We are called out of the Gentiles to be a people for God’s Name and his Glory: **Acts 15:14; Col 3:1-7**.

v33 Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness: **1 Chr 16:10-11; Heb 11:13-16; 12:1-2; 13:14**. Christ is our righteousness: **1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:21; Phil 3:9**. **Added unto you:** **Psa 37:4-5**

v34 NIV “each day has enough trouble of its own”.

Matthew 6

v25 ^a Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

v26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

v27 Which of you by taking thought can add ^o one cubit unto his stature?

v28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

v29 And yet I say unto you, That even ^o Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

v30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, ^o O ye of little faith?

v31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

v32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek;) ^v for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

v33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

v34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Matthew 7

v1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

v2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and ^u with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

v3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

v4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

v5 Thou hypocrite, ^p first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.

v6 ¶ Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

v7 ¶ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

v3 Considerest not the beam: Christ shows this principle with the woman taken in adultery: **Jn 8:3-11** cp. **Psa 18:25-26; Jn 12:47-48; Jas 2:12-13**. If we do the same as those we condemn, we condemn ourselves: **Rom 2:1-6,21-23**. We must examine ourselves first: **1 Cor 11:28-33**. **v5 Hypocrite:** Strongs: “an actor under an assumed character (stage player).” **v6 Pearls before swine:** Those who knowingly reject God’s Word should not be constantly corrected further otherwise they will abuse the gospel: **Prov 9:7-10; 23:9**. Pearls represent the precious gospel: **Job 28:12-19; Mt 13:45-46**.

MATT 7:7-12 THE FATHER’S GIFT AND THE SON’S RESPONSE

v7 Ask, seek, knock: The story in **Mt 15:23-28** is a good example. Key verses: **Mt 7:12; Jas 1:3-6,17; 4:2-3**. Humility is required. When we acknowledge our need, God is with us. We need our brethren too: **Jas 5:16**. **Seek and ye shall find:** Hunger and thirst after righteousness: **Mt 5:6**. God responds to those who seek Him: **Jer 29:10-14; Lam 3:25-26**. **Knock and it shall be opened:** Jesus’ words in **Mt 25:101-3; Lk 13:24-30; Rev 3:20** are very powerful!

v10-12 Emphasis on God as a Father and us as His children: **Psa 27:10; 103:13; Isa 40:11; 49:15; Hos 11:3; 1 Jn 3:1; 5:14-15**.

