

Huh?

Part Ten: *money & possessions*

May 14, 2023

Jesus did not advocate poverty or condemn making money in legitimate ways. It is not wrong to have lots of money and possess lots of things, but it is wrong for money and things to possess you. Greed is a form of idolatry because you are worshipping the things of this world (Ephesians 5:5).

In Matthew 6:19-34, Jesus gives two reasons why you should not live for money and possessions:

1st - Jesus said you cannot be devoted to God if you enslave yourself to money and possessions. Vs. 19-24

- First, Jesus said you should not store up treasures on earth because everything you own will eventually be taken from you.
- Second, Jesus said your heart will be in the place you store your treasures.

People who store up treasures on earth are focused on the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17), but people who store up treasures in heaven are focused on the things of heaven (Colossians Chapters 3-4).

What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven?

- It means to use your God-given resources (time, energy, money, and possessions) to further the Lord's work and build His kingdom.

What is Jesus talking about in verses 22-23?

- Jesus' eye illustration in verses 22-23 expands on what he said in verses 19-21.

As your eye (the lens that brings light to the body) must remain clear to see properly, so your heart must remain pure to guide your life in the right direction. Your body will seek the things of this world if your heart is corrupted with greed and materialism, but your body will seek to do God's will if it is pure (Matthew 5:8). Jesus applied his eye illustration in verse 24.

After he said you cannot serve two masters...

2nd - Jesus said you will worry if you enslave yourself to money and possessions. Vs. 25-34

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus commands us to not worry three times (Vs. 25, 31, 34) and gives us four reasons why worry is wrong.

- First, Jesus said worry is wrong because of your Master. Vs. 25

"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life..." refers back to the previous verse, in which Jesus declares that a Christian's Master is God. You don't need to worry about your daily needs because your Master owns everything (Psalm 24:1), controls everything (1 Chron. 29:12; Daniel 2:20-21), and He has promised to provide everything you need (Gen. 22:14; Phil. 4:19)!

- Second, Jesus said worry is wrong because of your Heavenly Father. Vs. 26-30

If God feeds relatively insignificant creatures as birds, and clothes the wildflowers in the fields, how much more will He take care of those who are created in His image, and born into His family through faith in His Son Jesus?

- Third, Jesus said worry is wrong because of your purpose. Vs. 31-33

It's natural for unbelievers to worry about their physical needs, but Christians know God has promised to meet their needs. Christians are not to be worried about their daily needs but to be focused on God's kingdom and His righteousness.

- Fourth, Jesus said worry is wrong because of your future. Vs. 34

Making reasonable provisions and plans for tomorrow is sensible, but it is foolish and unfaithful to worry about tomorrow. If you are a child of God, you are to concentrate on today's problems, temptations, and opportunities, relying on the Father to protect and provide for you (Lamentations 3:22-23; Hebrews 13:5-6).

The Bible says a lot about money and possessions. Almost half of Jesus' parables deal with money. More is said in the New Testament about money than Heaven and Hell combined. While there are 500 plus verses on both prayer and faith, there are over 2,000 verses dealing with money and possessions.

Why does the Bible talk so much about money and possessions?

- God uses money and possessions to evaluate how devoted we are to Him and how dependent we are on Him (Luke 12:13-21).

Some Personal Questions...

- 1. Are you storing up treasures on earth or in heaven?*
- 2. Are you serving God or are you enslaved by money?*
- 3. Are you trusting God with every part of your life?*