

SERMON PASSAGE GUIDE

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This Week's Passage

⁹ 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, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then 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 wealth.



Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

Reflect/Connect

Use these questions to reflect privately in prayer, or journal, or to start a meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

- When you plan for your or your family's future, how do you discern the line between wise, responsible stewardship versus making wealth your ultimate source of security?
- How does Jesus' command to stop storing up earthly wealth create tension with a world that regularly measures success, safety, and peace of mind by what we accumulate?

Grow in the Word

These questions are designed to guide your personal study, or spark spiritual conversation in your Life Group.

Jesus instructs His followers not to store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. Instead, they are to store up treasures in heaven. He concludes this thought by explaining that a person's heart will always be where their treasure is (v. 19-21).

- How does viewing earthly wealth as vulnerable "storage" change the way you read Jesus' warning about moths and thieves?
- According to Jesus' statement in verse 21, how does the physical act of investing your resources actually determine the future direction of your affections?
- What does it practically look like to lay up "treasures in heaven" (v. 20)? Take a look at 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How do Paul's instructions help define this kind of secure, eternal investment?

Jesus then compares the eye to the lamp of the body, noting that if the eye is clear, the whole body will be full of light, but if the eye is bad, the whole body will be full of darkness. He follows this illustrating by declaring that no one can serve two masters. A person will inevitably hate one and love the other, making it impossible to serve both God and wealth (v. 22-24).

- What does a "clear" or "bad" eye seem to represent when it comes to our wealth? Consider the surrounding verses about "treasure" in verse 21 and "master" in verse 24.
- According to verse 23, a "bad eye" means the whole person will be full of darkness. How does an unhealthy focus on accumulating or protecting wealth begin to darken a person's overall character and relationships?
- Why do you think Jesus uses the extreme imagery of a "master" and a "slave" to describe our relationship with money? What makes it practically impossible to divide your loyalty between God and your bank accounts or investments?

Practice Together

This section provides an easy way to live out the truths of the passage in daily life, whether you're with your Life Group, family & friends, or on your own. These practices help turn reflection into relationship & action.

- Take time this week to review your recent bank statements, budget, or investments. Ask the Father to help you honestly evaluate what your financial habits reveal about what you are currently trusting to keep you secure.
- Choose one specific way to exercise a "clear eye" this week by giving away something of value whether it is money, time, or a physical possession, to intentionally loosen the grip that earthly security can have on your heart.

