

# **Matthew 6:19-34**

## **Money and the Kingdom of God**

What would make you describe someone as 'materialistic'?

### **Read v19-24**

*Consider v19-21*

*Why is storing up treasure in heaven a smarter investment than treasure on earth?*

*What does it mean for our hearts to be 'where our treasure is'?*

### *Consider v22-23*

In this proverb about eyes being the lamp of the body, Jesus is saying what we set our eyes on (as a metaphor for priorities and longings) has a dramatic affect on our whole self. If our 'eye' is healthy, we are fixing our vision on good things, and our body or self is full of light. If the eyes of our hearts are bad, we are focused on things that are not good for us, and darkness comes into our whole self.

*How do you think this saying relates to what Jesus has just said about material or spiritual treasure in v19-21?*

*What does this saying add to the point he's already made in those verses?*

### *Consider v24*

*Why can you not serve both God and money?*

*What does it mean to 'serve money'?*

### **Reflect**

Why do we tend to view earthly treasure as more dependable and valuable than it really is?

What do the 'treasures' in your life say about your heart?

How could you tell if you're trying to serve both God and money?

If we really are serving God, and not money, how should we view and use our money?

## Read verses 25-34

Verse 25 begins with a 'therefore', showing that the call not to worry about your life, your food and drink or your clothes (basically your material existence) is an implication of what has just been said. Jesus is saying that someone who's treasure is in heaven rather than earth, who fixes their eyes on heaven rather than material desires, and who serves God rather than money - this kind of person doesn't worry about their material existence.

*Why is this true?*

*Consider:*

→ *What does it actually mean to 'worry' about money and material things? (What attitudes and behaviours are associated?)*

→ *Why do we naturally worry about these things?*

→ *Why does the faithful disciple **not** worry about them?*

What reasons does Jesus give in the following verses for why we don't need to worry about our lives, or food or clothing etc...?

- v25b
- v26
- v27
- v28-30
- v31-33
- v34

### **Reflect & Pray**

What's the difference between a healthy concern for financial stability and an ungodly anxiety about wealth or material things?

Should Christians save money for the future or invest in property or shares? Why or why not?

→ How should this passage shape or challenge the 'what, why and how' of saving and investing?

What does it mean for you to 'seek first the kingdom of God'?