

**April 14, 2013 Sermon Application Handout**

“X Marks the Spot”

Matthew 6:19-34

1. Before you begin, take a moment to pray and ask God to help you not only to read His Word but to help you become like a wise man who acts on them (Matthew 7:24)!
  
2. Read Matthew 6:1-34 in one sitting. Who is Jesus addressing? What are some themes in this chapter? What are some commands to be obeyed? How do verses 1-18 connect to verses 19-34?
  
3. According to Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 12:33-34, what should be our attitude toward our wealth?
  
4. Now read Luke 12:16-21; what was the rich man's attitude about his wealth? What was God's response toward him? Why did God respond to him in this way?
  
5. When you take into consideration the parable of the rich man above and Matthew 6:19, what would you say is the problem with stockpiling earthly treasure? (cf. 1 Tim. 6:7; James 5:2-3)?
  
6. In contrast to storing up treasure on earth; what should the believer be storing up for himself (Matthew 6:20)?

7. Now read and consider carefully Matthew 5:42; Luke 12:33, 19:8; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32; 9:36; 10:2; Rom 12:6-8; 1 Tim 4:14; 1 Peter 4:10; James 1:27; 2:14-16. List out some practical ways to store up treasures in heaven by using your money, time, and skill for the kingdom of God.
  
8. In verses 22-23 Jesus gives an analogy for the heart. That is because in Jesus' day the Pharisees had spiritual eyes that were diseased; with their eyes they were coveting money and wealth. In light of that, their earthly treasure was blinding them to the heavenly treasure. As you consider your list above and filter it through this passage, would you say your investment of money, time, and skill is primarily focused on God and His Kingdom or self? List out ways you are striving to serve God's causes? Then list out ways you have been serving your own cause? As you compare, who would you say your allegiance is to?
  
9. In verse 24, why does Jesus tell us that we cannot look in two directions at one time? Why is it impossible to live for God and our material wealth?
  
10. Read 1 Tim 6:9-10, 17-18; Heb 13:5; Luke 16:1-31. Is the Bible condemning the possession of wealth? Why or why not?
  
11. Read Matthew 6:25-32. According to Jesus, why is being anxious or worried about your life sinful? How does the pursuit of money tie into this? What does anxiety typically produce in one's life?

12. According to verses 30-33, what three words point the way to victory over anxiousness?
- Having more f \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 30)
  - Seeing God as your heavenly F \_\_\_\_\_ who will meet your needs (v. 32).
  - Seeking f \_\_\_\_\_ His Kingdom and His righteousness (v. 33).
13. Jesus says in verse 33, "But seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness and all these things will be added to you." In this verse, Jesus has the idea of reign or rule. In other words, Jesus is King of heaven and earth and He wants you to become His subject through repentance and faith. Have you repented from your sin and placed your faith in the finished work of Christ?
14. Salvation is not where it ends. As a Kingdom Citizen, Jesus wants you to seek to know Him better, and to bear spiritual fruit. What are some practical ways to seek to know Christ better and improve your relationship with Him? Is there anything you believe to be a distraction or a hindrance in your life that's taking Jesus' rightful place on the throne of your heart? Are you willing to give up earthly treasure to worship Him alone?

*"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." - John Wesley*

**Resources:**

- *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn
- *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn
- *Giving and Tithing* by Larry Burkett
- *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *Whose Money is it Anyway?* By John MacArthur