

# HERO MAKING

Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Matthew 6 | October 7, 2018

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## I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue our study on how to make heroes instead of becoming the hero ourselves.

## II. Connecting with One Another

What's your favorite earthly possession? Why?

## III. Study the Text

### a. Read Matthew 6.19-24.

Is there anything interesting or thought provoking in these words? Is there anything that is troubling?

### b. Commentators note that Jesus' statement in the original language features a sort of play on words in verse 19, reading literally, "Do not treasure up treasures on earth," or "Do not hoard hoards." His immediate explanation reveals why: Because moths and rust destroy, and thieves break in (literally "dig through" mud-brick walls of first century Palestinian homes) and steal. Of course, we know this to be true (despite not having mud-brick walled homes!).

Have you ever lost possessions to decay or thievery? If so, when? How? Who!?

We are instructed to instead "store up treasures in heaven." The main point of Matthew 6.19-24 is then stated, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Why is this so? Do you agree or disagree? Try putting this concept into your own words. How have you seen this at work in your own life?

### c. How, then, are we to understand "heaven"? Is that only the place of eternal life? Or is Jesus referring to something else?

What does it look like to store treasures in heaven? Try to jot down different ways you can do so:

### d. Read Luke 12.13-21. In what ways are you tempted to be like the farmer? Does that mean we can't save up for a rainy day? For our kids' college education? For our

retirement? Why or why not? Check out Proverbs 6.6-8. How does “considering the ant” add to our study?

- e. From another perspective, what do you think it means to be “rich toward God”? Though it seemingly begins a new section in Jesus’ sermon, 6.25-34 is intimately intertwined with verses 19-24.

How could you be increasingly “rich toward God”? Is God calling you to increase your giving to the church or another charitable, Kingdom-based organization? Is God calling you to give generously of your time for his ministry? Is God calling you to share your talents with others?

- f. Read verses 25-34 aloud. Are there other passages of Scripture you’re reminded of?

What mental image do you get in verse 32? How does Jesus’ statement about those who don’t know God “running after these things” help you understand this part of his sermon? How does it connect with 6.22-23? Notice the juxtaposition is between faith and anxiety! Being overly anxious, in essence, takes God out of the driver’s seat of our lives, questioning whether He will provide for our needs.

In what ways have you been tempted to take God out of the driver’s seat of your life? Why do you think you’ve been tempted to do so?

- g. Read Luke 10.38-42. Why does Jesus counter-culturally allow Mary to sit at his feet while telling Martha that she was “worried and upset about many things”? What is the one thing that is needed?
- h. Read 1st Timothy 6.3-19.

How – if at all – is verse 11 an example of how to “store up treasures in heaven”? How can we most appropriately live out verses 18-19?

#### IV. Pray

- a. Ask God to help you clarify the difference between your earthly possessions and heavenly treasures,
- b. Pray that God would reveal the ways you are tempted to be a hero instead of a hero maker,
- c. Lift up those you know who aren’t yet citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven and ask God to equip you to authentically share the gospel with them.

