

ONE THING MORE...

Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Matthew 6.19-34 | October 27, 2019
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I. Introduction to this Study

This week we begin a new series engaging one of the central themes of the Scriptures – and especially of a Reformed faith: Gratitude. You can hardly find a passage of the Bible that doesn't touch on the feeling or practice of gratitude in some way. And yet, despite its central role in the life of faith, let's be honest: gratitude can sometimes be lacking. Why is that? And what can we do about it?

This series, entitled One Thing More, will engage our problem with, God's plan and purpose for, the power behind, and the practice of... gratitude.

II. Connecting with One Another

What do you think of when you hear the word "gratitude"?

What or who are you grateful for? Why?

What percentage of the time do you feel grateful?

III. Study the Text

a. Read Matthew 6.19-24.

In the original language, Jesus' statement 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 in verse 19 reveals one reason why.

What reason does he give?

b. Of course, we know Jesus' reason to be true. Have you ever lost possessions to decay or thieves?

In general, do you think Jesus' reason to not "treasure treasures" keeps us from doing so? Why or why not?

c. Jesus knows that humans are treasuring beings, so he doesn't tell us to stop treasuring but instead to store up treasures somewhere or somehow else.

How does he call his disciples to treasure?

What do you think that means? How would one follow this command? Think of as many ways as you can.

d. Jesus offers another reason to follow his command about treasures in verse 21.



What is it? What do you think he means?

How have you seen this to be true in your own life?

- e. How would you put verses 22-24 in your own words?
- f. Read Matthew 6.25-34. If you're familiar with these verses, try rereading them in a couple different translations to get a fuller picture of what Jesus is saying to us.
How do these verses connect with and build upon those we've just read?
- g. What things does Jesus tell us not to worry about? Write them below.

Why do you think Jesus pinpoints these things?

Which other things would you add to the list?

- h. What questions does Jesus ask us in these verses?
What is the implied response to these questions?
How often do you live Jesus' implied response?
- i. What illustrations does Jesus use in these verses?
How effective are they? Why?
- j. Jesus tells us that a certain group of people run after food and drink and clothes.
Who are they? What does he mean?
How should our identity as His followers be different?
- k. Jesus concludes this section talking about "each day having enough trouble of its own." Let's look at the whole thrust of what he's saying in Matthew 6.19-34: What does it have to do with gratitude?
How does behaving like "pagans" bring the opposite of gratitude?

IV. Pray

- a. Ask God to help us uncover the importance and practice of gratitude throughout the next few weeks,
- b. Lift up those you know who haven't yet received God's grace, the source of gratitude.

V. Digging Deeper

- a. Similar themes are found in the following passages, if you'd like to dig deeper: Luke 12.13-21, Luke 10.38-42, 1st Timothy 6.3-19.

