



**“Serve 2016”**  
**Matthew 6:19-21**  
**Sermon Date: January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon**

**\*\* (The Sunday morning Scripture reading this week will be Galatians 5:13-15 if you would like to read and prayerfully consider it in advance) \*\***

**Prayer**

Spend some time praising God for who He is and acknowledging His worthiness as you come before Him. Ask that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes to see with greater clarity what the treasures of your heart are and the impact they have in how you serve Him and others. As you pray, consider the following words of a prayer taken from the book Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration by Barbara Duguid and Wayne Duguid Hook and make them your own before the Lord.

*“Lord Jesus,*

*We confess that we have long been loving treasures that have nothing to do with you or your kingdom. We love material treasures, such as our money, friends, cars, clothes, family, bodies, careers, and talents. We demonstrate that these are our treasures by finding deep satisfaction in them, or by our jealousy of those who have what we do not. We have also sought after the treasure of approval, finding our refuge in our performance, in praise from our employers, friends, and family, thus building our identity on a foundation made of sand. We have even sought to lay up treasures in heaven through our own good behavior, as if your favor could be bought by our efforts.*

*What a patient Savior you are! We thank you, Jesus, for your perfect obedience on our behalf, constantly seeking first God’s kingdom and His glory. You always understood where true treasure lies. When Satan tempted you with the riches of the world, you withstood him. When ridiculed for proclaiming the truth, you remained obediently in communion with your Father. Although you were heir of all things, you set aside this treasure, enduring the poverty of being forsaken by the Father. Though we continue daily to value other things ahead of you, you were put to death so that we, the very ones who crucified you, might become your treasure. For this, we are profoundly grateful.*

*Help us, Lord Jesus, to respond in faith to this good news. Break in and steal our idol-worshiping hearts. Build our faith on nothing less than you, our refuge and true foundation. Remind us of our utter poverty in ourselves and the riches you have lavished upon us. Turn our hearts from earthly treasure, so that we may rightly treasure you above all else.”*

## Review

By way of reminder, the first three sermons of each year we study the three words which define all that we do at Living Grace - “Worship, Grow, and Serve.” Two weeks ago Brian preached a sermon on “Worship” and last week he preached a sermon on “Grow” (you are strongly encouraged to listen to the sermon audio online if you were not able to be there - <http://www.livinggracebakersfield.com/sermons/>). This week he will preach on what it means to “Serve” in the body of Christ. We will be resuming our study in the book of 1 Peter on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Scripture

**Matthew 6:19–21 – (English Standard Version)**

*19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

## Handling the Word

1. Since we are in our third week of our annual “Worship, Grow, Serve” series, we will be spending some time considering what it means to serve. The Bible is clear about the reality that those who follow after Jesus Christ are called to serve. Look up the following passages and summarize what they have to say in regard to serving God and others.

Matthew 20:25-28 –

Romans 12:9-13 –

Galatians 5:13-15 –

James 2:14-18 –

1 Peter 4:7-11 –

1 John 3:16-18 –

2. We find our passage in Matthew 6 right in the heart of what is commonly known as Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5-7). Summarize the overall theme of the sermon and then describe the main idea of the passages immediately surrounding our text this week (6:1-18, 6:22-24).

## Understanding and Applying

1. According to Jesus' words in Matthew 6:19-21, a distinguishing mark of a true follower of Jesus Christ is that we live with our mind set on things above rather than on the things of this earth (see also Colossians 3:1-2). This means, at least in part, that we invest in and treasure that which is eternal rather than that which is temporal. How does having this eternal mindset impact the way we serve others in our individual lives? How should it impact our focus and the way we serve others as a church body at Living Grace?
  
2. In sacrificially serving others, believers are investing in the eternal as Jesus spoke of and exemplified in His life (Philippians 2:1-8). Write down the ways you are currently serving the various people listed below. If you don't feel as though you are serving them, list a couple of ways that you could possibly do so in the days ahead.
  - Spouse –
  - Kids –
  - Extended Family –
  - Co-Workers –
  - Neighbors –
  - Unbelievers –
  
3. In what ways can a focus on laying up treasures for ourselves on earth become a hindrance to effectively serving others (Matthew 6:24, 19:16-22, and Luke 12:13-21)? Have you experienced any of these hindrances in your own life? If so, explain.
  
4. What do your current investments of time, energy, and resources say about what is truly the treasure of your heart (provide examples of how you are investing in each of the three categories)? What do the current investments of time, energy, and resources by Living Grace as a church say about what we value (provide examples of how the church is investing in each of the three categories)?

5. What is the relationship between evangelism and our call to serve others? Explain why proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ (evangelism) may be the greatest way we can serve the world around us.
  
6. Spend a few minutes identifying two or three people in your neighborhood, workplace, school, etc. that do not know the gospel, or who have not placed their faith in Jesus Christ. What are some ways that you can begin to communicate the good news with them? How can you be more intentional about pointing them to the eternal?
  
7. Serving others is something we certainly do in our relationships and communities outside the church, but it is also an integral part of our worship together inside the church as a body of believers (Galatians 6:10). How are you currently using your skills, abilities, and resources to serve others within the body at Living Grace? Commit to praying about where and how you can serve the body and ask the Lord to use His Word, along with the encouragement of fellow believers, to help you see the ways in which He wants you to serve.
  
8. What would look different in your life if you took small steps to be more focused on Jesus Christ and that which is lasting as you serve Him and those around you? Be specific and commit to taking those small steps before the Lord by His strength and for His glory.

*“Brethren, I do not think much of a conversion where it does not touch a man’s substance; and those people who pretend to be Christ’s people, and yet live only for themselves, and do nothing for Him or for His Church, give but sorry evidence of having been born again.”*

*C.H. Spurgeon*