

8. In verse 24 Jesus lays out very plainly one of the core values which will characterise the members of the kingdom of heaven: God is their Treasure, not wealth. What are some of the excuses you can think of for trying to serve “both God and Money/Mammon”?

9. What is Jesus’ response to these kinds of excuses? (see also Matthew 19:16-26, Luke 12:33)

10. How can you best be a good steward of the material resources that God has entrusted to you in such a way that they do not pose a threat to your heart?

6 The Blessed Life

Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7

Choose Your Treasure

Matthew 6:19-24

In the preceding passage (Matthew 6:1-18), Jesus dealt with the issue of the Christian’s personal devotional life— the things that we do which express our membership in the Kingdom: sharing our resources, praying and fasting. In this passage, Jesus puts our personal values and ambitions under the spotlight.

Read Matthew 6:19-24

1. What kinds of “treasures on earth” do people like to store up for themselves?

2. What do you think Jesus means when he talks about “treasures in heaven”?

3. In verses 22-23 Jesus uses a word picture to outline the general principle of this unit of teaching: “if the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”. How would you restate Jesus’ principle in your own words?

4. In verse 21 Jesus gives us painfully accurate method of evaluating our personal values. He says, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” If we were to all openly and honestly answer the question, “Where is your treasure, right now?”, what do you think would happen?

While it is often difficult to discuss and examine the personal values of our lives in the context of a small group Bible study, Jesus has no qualms about speaking directly and publicly to these issues. Yet, it is often our most personal values that we are most protective of—what we think about these issues is not open for evaluation by anyone else.

5. Which of the following life values do you think people most keep from being challenged by others?

- (i) family
- (ii) friendships
- (iii) honesty
- (iv) career ambitions
- (v) job satisfaction
- (vi) marriage
- (vii) money
- (viii) security
- (ix) sexual behaviour
- (x) sport

6. To what extent do you agree with the suggestion that “the personal values which we most protect most accurately reveal our real treasure”?

7. What do you think it would mean for you to have your treasure in heaven?