



Title: Material Matters

Date: June 5, 2022

Scripture Text: Matthew 6:19-24

Sermon Series: Inside-Out

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We are back in our study of the Sermon on the Mount as Jesus addresses the issue of materialism. Materialism is the insatiable desire to want more. There is never enough! Materialism effects all ages in all places. It can become such an issue that not only are we distracted from the things of God, but we become miserable in our pursuit of more: never getting the satisfaction we long for. In today's sermon, we'll consider three questions to help us determine if we are materialistic.

I. Where is the Treasure of Your Heart? (Matthew 6:19-21)

Jesus continues to confront the hypocritical religious leaders and contrasting them with the true kingdom servant. This passage doesn't forbid saving or investing, but for your focus and priority NOT to be temporary earthly treasures. To the contrary, a disciple of Jesus should focus be on Him and heavenly treasures.

- What are examples of earthly treasures?
- Distinguish between a godly attitude of saving / investing and being distracted by pursuing / accumulating earthly treasure.
- When do earthly treasures become a problem?
- What does [vs 21](#) mean; "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."?
- What are examples of heavenly treasures?
 - What does it mean to 'store up' these treasures?
 - What are ways you can invest your time and talents into heavenly treasures?

II. What is the Desire of Your Heart? (Matthew 6:22-23)

Jesus is teaching that we need spiritual clarity of sight to have an accurate perspective of the treasure we pursue. With good spiritual eyes, the light they let in would be an accurate perspective on the value of material wealth, while darkness, because of bad eyes, would be a distortion of this truth. The person with good eyes is generous and can see clearly, and life can be guided in wisdom and safety by such light. The person with bad eyes is covetous and selfish. He is walking in darkness and is bound for harm he cannot see.

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- Describe what clear, good spiritual eyes look like.
- List characteristics of someone with bad spiritual eyes.
- What are activities that can help us increase our spiritual eyesight?
- How is a disciple of Jesus a better witness for Him when his eyesight is clear?

III. Who is the Master of Your Heart? (Matthew 6:24)

Jesus states that we cannot serve two masters. We can't obediently serve Christ while we are wallowing in materialism. Jesus wants our whole and undivided obedience. If we are harboring greed or selfishness, we are unable to please Him. Materialism is a form of idolatry ([Eph. 5:5](#)). We are to love the Lord our God with ALL our heart, with ALL our soul, with ALL our mind and with ALL our strength ([Mark 12:30](#))!

- What are examples of some 'masters' in our culture today?
- How is NOT giving our whole heart to Christ idolatry?
- What does the phrase "on the fence" mean?
- What can you do to stay off the fence, not get sucked into materialism, and give your whole heart to Christ?