



**FOCAL  
POINT:  
HEAVEN**  
Matthew 6:19-24

# FOCAL POINT: HEAVEN or EARTH?

MATTHEW 6:19-24

## Introduction

---

I am not going to give a long introduction this morning. We have a lot of ground to cover with our text. **I would remind you that we are continuing our study of the Sermon on the Mount. It was and continues to be the Greatest Sermon Ever Preached by the greatest Preacher to ever walk earth.** Already we have learned a lot. We just finished with Christ's teaching us about the right motivation for giving, praying, and fasting. In the middle of that, Christ gave us a pattern for prayer. Now Christ takes aim at another important aspect of being a true disciple.

In our text, **Christ is now aiming at our heart and the things we treasure most.** He is talking about the things we truly

value the most. He begins by pointing out the difference between treasures in Heaven versus treasures on here on earth.



**Take your Bibles and look with me at our text which is Matthew 6:19-24.** I will read it. Please follow along with me.

## Body

---



### HEAVENLY versus EARTHLY

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:19-20

## HEAVENLY versus EARTHLY

Note again with verses 19 and 20.

---

**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: Matthew 6:19-20**

Obviously, **there are clear differences between what is stored in Heaven versus what is stored on earth.** The things of earth are temporary and quite easy to destroy or steal. Christ points to three things to illustrate His point.

- Moths

- Rust
- Thieves

**We all are aware what these things can do.** A moth can ruin a nice sweater, a good suit, or your favorite shirt in a short amount of time. Rust is the enemy of metal. And we all take measure to prevent thieves from breaking in. In fact, when you think about it, millions and millions of dollars are spent every year looking to prevent these things from destroying what we own or value. Yet, all that money and all the time means nothing. For in the end, we die and leave it behind. And guess what usually happens to all that stuff we treasured so much. Someone else gets it who does not value it the way did. And, the moth eats it, rust overtakes it, or it is stolen away. You see the things of this earth are things that eventually are destroyed or stolen. They do not last.

**On the other hand, the things of heaven are eternal. Heaven is perfect.** There is no moth. There is no rust. There is no sin thus there are not thieves. Whatever is stored in heaven is far more valuable than what is stored on earth. The things of heaven are so valuable that they last for forever. The things of heaven are so valuable that they nothing can destroy them. The things of heaven are so valuable that no person can steal them away.

—  
**HEART determines  
 VALUE**

For where your  
 treasure is, there  
 will your heart be  
 also.

Matthew 6:21



**HEART  
 determines  
 VALUE**

Christ then makes a particularly important statement. He goes on to say...

---

**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21**

**Christ goes right to the heart of the matter! Please pardon my pun. Yet, it is true. All it will take is to look around you.** Look at your neighbor. Or just ride the down the road looking each house. You can tell just by what you see at each house what that person values. If they have 4-5 hotrods sitting in the driveway, I know at once there is a car person living there. If they have a great big RV and a boat, I know at once there are people living who live for the weekend camping and fishing. If their house is four times bigger than the house next door, I know that person treasure their house. I could go on and on with this analogy all day. However, I think you get the point. People who love cars invest their time, their money, and their energy in buying them, maintaining them, and showing them off. People who love their house build it big, built with show, and work insisently to keep it up and looking nice.

**Someone once said show me you bank account and I can tell you what you genuinely love.** Why? Whatever has our heart is where we spend our money.

If your bank account were made public, what would it show about you? Would we find a person who is laying up treasure on earth or on heaven?

**May I say to you today that if you are Christian, a saved person following the Lord Jesus Christ, your focus and your treasure should be all about the things of God and Heaven.** That is the right thing for Christians to be focused on. In fact, that is the very point that Christ is making here.

This is reiterated over in Colossians 3 where God tells us...

**HEART  
determines  
VALUE**

If we then set our affections on things of the earth, we are missing the point of the Christian life. Our hearts should be set on things of the glory that are to come. Colossians 3:1-3



---

**If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

**Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-3**

**The fact of the matter is that true born-again believers should set their affection or make their treasure about the things of Heaven.** Our hearts should be tuned in to the fact that nothing on this earth lasts. To go after the things of this world is a complete waste of time. However, going after the things of God is important, serious, and very much worth our time, our energy, and our finances. And, truly, a Christian who spend more of their time buying and gaining things of this world is NOT LIVING the life God intended them to live.

**There must come a time in each Christian's life when the stop living for this world and start living for Christ.** There must come a time when they decide that we would rather have Jesus than riches untold. I will tell you that the more I see of this world the more I realize just how much I long for Heaven. This world is wicked. This world offers nothing but pain and misery. There is no hope in this world. There is no joy in wealth and power. In fact, the more wealth and power you have the more people there are who are looking to take it away from you. Why then would we as Christians desire such a thing when we know the joy and the pleasures promised to us as we serve the Lord. Yet, so many times, we get so caught up with this world and what it has to offer.

## What is needed this morning are spiritual correctional lenses!

In fact, Christ alludes to this in verses 22 and 23.

# CORRECTIONAL LENSES NEEDED

### CORRECTION LENSES NEEDED



The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness: if therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Matthew 6:22-23

**The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body**

**shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! Matthew 6:22-23**

The eye is a wonderful creation of God. The fact that Christ speaks of the eye as the light of the body proves His knowledge as God. Only the Creator understands the wonder of the eye. This statement by Christ is affirmed by science today. **The eye is literally all about light. Every single part of the eye is about focusing light. The cornea, the iris, the lens, and the retina use light in such way that it enables us to see. And, as Christ noted, if the eye be filled with darkness then that darkness is indeed great.** I have read testimony of those who are blind. And, in those testimonies, some have suggested that you on a very dark night that you shut off all the lights and then cover your eyes in order to gain an understanding of being truly blind. Yet, I would

imagine that even that does not come close to the darkness of a truly blind eye.

**I believe Christ is giving us a very vivid spiritual illustration here. We know that Christ is the Light of the World. I believe that analogy can be made that people who are without the Light of the Word are people living in great spiritual darkness.** Scripture has much to say about this.



---

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**  
**John 1:1-5**

Christ came as the Light. He was Light shining exposing the darkness of wicked men. Despite the Light coming, the darkness of wicked men comprehended it not and remained in darkness.

Later Christ would say in John 3:19...



---

**And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than**

## **light, because their deeds were evil. John 3:19**

Even still today men are condemned. Why? They are condemned because God's Eternal Light came, but instead of embracing the Light they chose darkness instead. And still today, men would rather have the darkness of this world than the Light of Heaven. Their reason for choosing darkness rather than Light is simple. They are sinful, wicked, and evil.

**However, with Christ there is always Hope. Thus, Christ came and offered Himself as the Light of the World.** And even today, men and women are encouraged to accept the Light and turn from the darkness of this world. Romans 13:12 encourages people by stating...



---

**The night is far spent,  
the day is at hand: let  
us therefore cast off the  
works of darkness, and  
let us put on the  
armour of light. Romans 13:12**

**And, that my friend, is the point that I am trying to make. You see if your eye be single (wholly focused on Christ and what He has done, will do, and has promised to do) then you whole body will be full of light.** He is the LIGHT! And, the day truly is at hand, today is the day of a salvation. If you are here this morning or even listening to this broadcast and you have not accepted Christ as Savior, you are still living in darkness. A darkness that will truly be great if you were to slip into eternity without Christ. In fact, the Bible warns those who die without Christ are those who will spend eternity in outer darkness. Yet that does not have to be you. You see all



you need to do is turn to Christ. How does a person turn to Christ?

- Acknowledge their sinful condition. **Romans 3:23** – **“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”**
- Repent of your sinful condition. **Acts 3:19** – **“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”**
- Confess your sinful condition to the Lord. **Romans 10:9-10** – **“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**
- Genuinely believe all that Christ has done for you. Believe that He died, was buried, and rose again that you might be saved from eternal damnation. **Romans 10:9-10**

If will do that right now, your darkness will be turned into Light! Then your whole body will be full of light!

**There is also a warning for us as believers here as well. There are times when we allow the darkness of this world enter back into our life.** We get our eyes on things of this world. It is then that our allegiance to God wanes as we turn our allegiance back to this world. Christ addressed this in verse 24 by saying...



No man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:24

---

**No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:24**

**Love for this world causes hate for the things of God. I have seen it many times over the years of serving the Lord. I have seen many a Christian lose focus.** They get their eyes on the thing this world offers. Eventually, those people began to despise the things of God. They stop reading their Bibles. They stop praying. They stop being faithful to church. And, the next thing you know, they are full of bitterness towards anything to do with God.

There is a great story in the book of Acts that illustrates this wonderfully. I will close with that story and the challenge from today's text.

## Conclusion

---

The Book of Acts continues the story of what took place after Christ's ascension. To shorten the story, essentially, Christianity exploded after Christ ascended. In fact, the first church, the local church of Jerusalem, saw great success as God added to that church many new disciples daily. There was great harmony and unity. People were on fire for God. So much so that many of them were only focused on "laying up treasures in Heaven." As a result, many of them began selling off their houses and their lands. They then took the proceeds from what they sold and gave it to the church so the gospel could be taught further. One of those who did this was

Barnabas. Barnabas set the example. Later, the Holy Spirit would choose him along with Paul to be the first missionaries. His act of selling his possession and giving it to the apostles inspired others to do the same. In Acts 5, we find a couple whose names were Ananias and Sapphira. They too were inspired by Barnabas devotion to God. They made the



same promise and commitment to the Lord. They proceeded to sell their land committing to give whatever amount they received back to the Lord. Such a

commitment tells me that were very sincere in serving the Lord. However, once they sold the land, they received more money than they expected. Here is where things changed. Their focus changed. Before their focus was “laying up treasures in heaven.” However, when they saw the great amount of money in their possession, the temptation of this world came into play. They lost their focus. They gave into their own desires. They made they decision to keep back part of the money for themselves. That turned out to be an unbelievably bad decision on their part. In fact, it was a decision that cost both their lives. God slew both before the whole church.

My point in sharing that story is the fact that this is serious business with God. God desires that His people be focused on the things of Heaven and not on the things of this earth. When you allow this earth to be your focus, you lose spiritual insight. Your ability to know and understand the things of God becomes darkened. On top of that comes the danger of divided loyalty. In my experience, it never ends well for those who chose the world over God. It did not end well with Ananias and Sapphira. I can assure it you it will not end will

with you either. All of us can avoid such ugliness and  
sinfulness if we just determine this morning, we would  
RATHER HAVE JESUS than anything this world affords today!