



Where's your treasure? Matthew 6.19-24

1. In the history of Israel, wealth was often a sign of God's blessing – take Abraham for example – though it was normally a blessing upon the nation as a whole. Why is "prosperity theology" so immensely damaging? (Prosperity theology is the view that God wants to bless us with material things, and that we need to claim the blessing – walk in it – since that is *always* God's desire for us.)

2. One who pursues money will be led astray by it. It is a stumbling block to those who are avid for it, and every fool will be taken captive by it. What specifically is the danger inherent in accumulating great wealth? OR **If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.** What does this verse teach regarding Jesus' understanding of treasure? What benefits come from being generous?

3. He challenges his disciples to take a long hard look at everything they consider valuable. What do you consider valuable? How do those things we consider valuable "compete" with God in your life? How does this passage affect how you view your most valuable things.

4. Since the heart is the true repository of treasure, Jesus now indicates that when the eye focuses on something of value, it becomes the conduit that fills the heart with what has been focused upon. What does this teach us about what we spend our time looking at, and about our priorities? Where does the challenge lie with you personally?

5. Money has tremendous power to entangle the heart. It's not neutral. It sets itself up as a god, whether we choose to acknowledge it or not. Do you agree? If so, why? What actions can we take to demonstrate that God has our devotion, not Money?