

Invest Eternally

Matthew 6:19-24



Are you a saver? When you were young did you save your allowance for a toy, a bike, a treat? As a teenager did you get a job and start saving for a car, a computer, the prom, or college? Once you became an adult, did you invest in a mortgage, a stock portfolio, or a beach cottage? And were you saving for the future, for retirement, or long term care? How did you choose the wisest investments?

Think about the investing you have done. People invest in what they think is important, what is of value. What do your investments say about what you value?

Savings Account

Read Matthew 6:19-21.

The Greek word translated in this passage as “store up” comes from the root word that translates in this passage as treasure. It literally means to amass treasure. The word translated as “break in” means to penetrate someone’s defenses.

- Have you ever collected anything to excess? Why was that collection important to you?
- What earthly treasures have you tried to amass or store up in your life? What was your motive for accumulating those treasures?
- How does excessive accumulation of valuables make you vulnerable to “moths, rust, and theft”? What is Jesus’ point here?
- To what heavenly treasures do you think is Jesus referring?
- The word heart, *cardia*, in Greek means one’s center or middle and includes thoughts and feelings. If your treasure is the center of your thoughts and feelings, what treasure would you choose to accumulate?

Open Your Eyes

Read Matthew 6:22-23.

Although ancient people did not understand the physiology of how the eyes worked, they did recognize that you couldn't see light unless you opened your eyes. They considered the eyes to be a window that allows light to enter your body. This was often used as a metaphor in common speech to refer to the understanding of hidden meanings, the illumination of dark places, the exposing of evil, and the revelation of secrets.

- How does what we see affect our heart, our center?
- If you watch television and other media, how does it affect how you feel?
- How can we protect ourselves and others from the evil and corruption we see around us? What about our children?

Two Masters

Read Matthew 6:24.

The Greek word, *douleuo*, translated in this verse as "serve", can also be translated as "to be in bondage to or a slave to." The Greek word, *kurios*, translated as master means one who controls another. Think about how being controlled by or being a slave to two different people would make it very difficult to accomplish any task successfully, especially if they had conflicting orders.

- Have you ever received contradictory instructions from parents, teachers, or bosses? How did it feel? What did you do?
- Describe a time when you felt torn between what was expected by society and what was expected by God.
- The word used here for money is *mamonas* (mammon). Some scholars believe that the root of this word comes from the name of the Chaldean god of wealth, avarice, and greed. What do you see as the conflict between money and God? How does it affect your life?
- How can you change the way you invest your time and your resources?

Living It

Share with your group what changes you made last week to the way you prayed, fasted, or gave to the church or to others. How did it make you feel?

This week:

Journal about what you treasure this week. Explore your relationship to money and the media. Describe your efforts to focus more on heavenly treasure. Record what strategies helped and how you felt about those changes. Be prepared to share with your group next week.