



The Heart *of* Generosity

SMALL GROUP SERIES

WEEK 2:
**Store up treasures in
Heaven**



The Heart of Generosity

Today we are looking at how we are shaped by the things we treasure or value.

In Matthew 6, Jesus draws a contrast between two types of treasure: earthly and heavenly.

Share

- What does it mean to treasure something?
- What is something that you treasure?

Pray

Today's Scripture passage includes words spoken by Jesus and recorded in the gospel of Matthew. Jesus challenges his listeners to evaluate whether they are focused on heavenly things or earthly ones. Before we read it, let's pray the Holy Spirit would speak to us.

Holy Spirit, would you speak through God's word today. We thank you for your teaching and that you want us to set our hearts and minds on things above, not on the things of the earth. Help us to store up treasures in Heaven, and to pour generously into the lives of the people you so love.

In your name,

Amen

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Read

Matthew 6:19-24. You might like to read it in a couple of different translations.

Matthew 6:19-24 (New Living Translation)

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²² "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

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Share

- Let's read Verses 19-20 together again. What reason does Jesus give here for not focusing on earthly treasure? What do you think he means by this?
- How is heavenly treasure more secure and worthwhile?
- What are some of the earthly treasures people chase? What do you think attracts us to these things?
- Read Verse 21 again, out loud. What do you think this means? How do the things we treasure shape us? (Think about the impact on our thoughts, mood, actions, plans, etc). Is this usually conscious or not conscious?
- Let's look at Verses 22 and 23. Why does the eye – i.e. the way we look at the world – have so much impact on our lives?
- Jesus says, "If your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness." Have you experienced or heard stories of people chasing earthly things, and ending up sad or unsatisfied?
- What disciplines or steps have helped you keep focused on the right things?
- Imagine you are working for two bosses in one job, and they give you opposite instructions. Has anyone experienced something like that? Is there a way to follow both of them? What will end up happening?

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- In a similar way, Jesus says, “You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”
What does it look like to be *enslaved* to money? What are some signs that we are giving it too much importance in lives?
- What is one step you could take to focus your life more on Kingdom things?
- What is one area in your life you feel challenged about or that you would like to grow in?

Pray

Spend some time praying for each other about the things you have shared.

Lord Jesus, thank you for your powerful teaching. We surrender our hearts to you alone. May we serve you with joy, using all that we have for your glory. Help us to see with clear eyes—to live with Kingdom vision, unclouded by the world’s values. May our lives reflect your light, your love and your truth.

In your name,

Amen

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Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.