

SOTM 16 – Where Your Treasure Is

Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (21) **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

In many ways, this section of the sermon on the mount is referring back to the very first verse and teaching in more detail what it means to be "poor in spirit."

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed *are* the **poor in spirit**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

What does "poor in spirit" mean? Remember the three requirements to be a disciple of Jesus:

1. **Luke 14:26** "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
2. **Luke 14:27** And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
3. **Luke 14:33** So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

I used to think those three requirements were extremely harsh, even unreasonable, until it dawned on me that **every soldier in every army in history has had to do these same three things**. They must leave father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and risk their own life in order to be good soldiers. They must use harsh discipline of the body to be good soldiers. They trust the army for their clothes, their food, their weapons, their training, and for their direction ... their assignments, their "missions." They must serve their commanding officers first and foremost. True soldiers in time of war must be single minded, keeping their eye laser focused on their assignment in the army.

Jesus begins this teaching speaking about the true "treasure." **Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.** My earthly father carried a pistol in WWII that was made in such a way that you could put a photo in the handle. He had a picture of his new bride, my future mom, in the handle of that pistol. They had only been married about four months when he was drafted and sent to Germany. They would not see each other again for nearly four years. My dad said he carried her picture in the handle of that gun so he would be constantly reminded of "**what he was fighting for.**" In that instance, for my dad, my mom was his treasure and his love for her was his motivation for winning the

war.

Our treasure is Christ, the one who died for us. The one who rescued us from eternity in Hell. We love Christ and the Father who sent Him to save us. The apostle Paul wrote;

Colossians 3:1-5 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (5) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Notice, we set our affection where are treasure is. Our treasure is in heaven. Because our treasure is Christ in heaven, we are good soldiers on planet earth ... and we "mortify" our bodies on planet earth ... or as Jesus put it ... we take up our cross by keeping our bodies under discipline ... daily! I remember when the Holy Spirit told me years ago, *"One of you will be on the cross every day. Either your spirit or your flesh will be on the cross. You make the decision which one is on the cross each day."*

Jesus Christ is our treasure. We love Him. We serve Him. Our lives belong to Him.
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Be single minded. We use the term "laser focused."

Matthew 6:22-24 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. (23) 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! (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.

Here Jesus uses the word mammon to shine the light on the major motivation of the world. Notice how emphatic Jesus says this: You CANNOT serve God and mammon. Remember the analogy of the soldier. You cannot be double minded and think you are going to win the war. Whose kingdom are your serving? You either serve God or the

world. Jesus says you CANNOT do both.

This does NOT mean Jesus is calling every believer to be in full time ministry. There are those He calls to full time ministry, but the vast majority of believers are to be "in the world" because that is where the sinners are. The full time fivefold ministry is for the purpose of building up the saints for the work of the kingdom:

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:12 His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [**that they should do**] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church). AMPLIFIED BIBLE

The purpose of the fivefold is to build up and equip the saints so they can do the work of the ministry. The work of the fivefold ministry is primarily to the saints ... those who are already believers. The work of the saints is the ministry to the world ... and you can't do that unless you are in the world where the sinners are. Are the sinners in church? No, they are in the world. **God needs spirit filled dentists, lawyers, mechanics, store clerks, bank tellers, and ... every occupation there is.** At that time in history, slavery was fairly common. Even slaves were called not to focus on becoming free, but to focus on letting their light shine where they were:

1 Corinthians 7:20-24 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. (21) Art thou called *being* a servant? **care not for it:** but if thou mayest be made free, use *it* rather. (22) For he that is called in the Lord, *being* a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, *being* free, is Christ's servant. (23) **Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.** (24) **Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.**

1 Corinthians 7:20-24 Everyone should remain after God calls him in the station or condition of life in which the summons found him. (21) Were you a slave when you were called? Do not let that trouble you. But if you are able to gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity. (22) For he who as a slave was summoned in [to union with] the Lord is a freedman of the Lord, just so he who was free when he was called is a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah). (23) You were bought with a price [purchased with a preciousness and paid for by Christ]; then do not yield yourselves up to become [in your own estimation] slaves to men [but consider yourselves slaves to Christ]. (24) So,

brethren, in whatever station or state or condition of life each one was when he was called, there let him continue with and close to God. AMPLIFIED BIBLE

Notice that last phrase ... in whatever station or state or condition of life ... continue with God ... and stay close to God. AMPLIFIED BIBLE

THAT is why we must be single minded and laser focused because we must be in the world but not of the world. **Every soldier in WWII like my dad was in Germany, but not of Germany.** They were single minded on their purpose even while in enemy territory. **The world is enemy territory** and if you begin to be double minded and become friends with the world ... you have become a traitor and an enemy of God.

Only traitors to Christ become friends of the world. You CANNOT serve both.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? **whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

You cannot love both God and the world.

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Jesus has sent us the same way the Father sent Him.

John 17:10-21 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. (11) And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*. (12) While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. (13) And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. (14) I have given them thy word; and **the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** (15) I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. (16) **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** (17) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (18) **As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.** (19) And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. (20) Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall

believe on me through their word; (21) That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: **that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**

Matthew 6:25 **Therefore** I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

The word THEREFORE is so important to understanding the rest of Matthew chapter six. **The number one thing that causes believers to spend their lives serving mammon instead of God is not greed ... it is FEAR OF LACK.** Of course we are not to be greedy and spending our lives in the pursuit of money. But that is not what Jesus focuses on in this teaching because for most people, it is not greed that motivates them ... it is FEAR. Specifically ... it is FEAR OF LACK. "What shall we eat? What shall we drink? How will we have clothes to wear?"

This FEAR OF LACK was the same thing that Israel exhibited in the wilderness. It was one of the reasons they never conquered the promised land and it will keep you from living the abundant life also. Jesus' focus in the rest of this chapter is not so much on you being a soldier in the kingdom, but of you being a son being provided for by your heavenly Father.

Jesus is our example. He is the SERVING SON. He is the Son, the full heir, who willingly chose to live His life doing the will of the Father instead of his own will. "Not my will but thine be done" was His prayer ... and it must be ours also. The promise of Matthew chapter six is ... we are not like the world who had no provider. We have a provider ... and He is our FATHER.

Again, you do not have to be full time in the fivefold to be provided for. You are to seek the kingdom where you are, or in whatever occupation where He leads you. He is your provider. If you lose your job, He has another one for you. If the economy crashes, He is still your provider and He will make a way for you. He provided water and manna in the wilderness and He can provide for you now, no matter the circumstances.