**The Sermon on the Mount (Part 13) + Weekly Devotion + 11.6.2024**

**Read Matthew 6:19-24**

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

Jesus teaches us the right attitude toward possessions by presenting contrasting pictures of treasures, eyes, and masters. Earthly treasure (stuff) doesn’t last; only Christ and eternal life in His kingdom last forever. A “healthy” eye reveals a body in whom Christ, the light of the world, dwells. And we all know what the last one means – a slave can only have one master. We can’t serve both God and money.

These three illustrations (treasures, eyes, and masters) invite us to reflect on what’s most important to us. As Christ says, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). When Jesus speaks about our “heart,” He isn’t referring to the main organ of our cardiovascular system that pumps blood throughout our bodies. Instead, He’s referring to the inner self, the source of our thoughts, mind, and will. Our treasure is whatever’s most important to us. Our treasure is the thing(s) we spend our time doing and thinking about.

So, what exactly is your treasure? What’s most important to you? What do you spend your time thinking about and doing? What’s so important that you can’t live without it? As I think about Jesus’ words, I’m reminded of Hymn #654 in our *Lutheran Service Book:* “Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure.” I hope that God’s kingdom is your greatest treasure!

But what exactly is God’s kingdom? God’s kingdom can be simply explained as His rule, or reign, through His Son. To put it another way, Jesus Himself is the kingdom of God (see Luke 17:21). I pray that Christ is your treasure. That His sacrificial death on the cross to take away your sins is your treasure. That victory over the grave and eternal life in Him are your greatest treasure. That faith which clings to His Words is your greatest treasure.

All other treasures will pass away at the end of this age. Health, wealth, possessions, relationships, electronics, all these things are good gifts which God gives us because we’re reconciled to Him through His Son. But none of these things can do what Christ does for us. None of them can keep their promises like Jesus can. None of them can fulfill us and give us joy like Jesus can.

Take some time to reflect on Jesus’ words. Where is your heart? What is your treasure? If your treasure is something else, why is it that person or thing and not Christ? Are we lacking in our knowledge of Christ or trust in His Words? Are our priorities rightly ordered? Do we fear, love and trust in God above all things? (First Commandment) If not, it’s time to repent and turn to the Scriptures. Christ’s words invite us to examine ourselves. I pray that Christ is your greatest treasure, and that together we grow in our knowledge, trust, and love for Him.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, lead us to seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Amen.