



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 16

TREASURE IN HEAVEN

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



MONDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 6:19-24

The heart is only big enough for one treasure. No one can serve two masters. We will either live for the things of this world or we will live for the God who created all things. Jesus tells us that our hearts can be filled with only one love. If we love the Lord and His kingdom, a love for money or fine things will not capture our attention. Unfortunately, the opposite is true. If our hearts are filled with a love of money or the things money can buy, there is no room for the Lord. We can't truly love both at the same time.

Our love for the Lord results in a relaxing of our hold on earthly things. We more easily give to those in need. God rewards us for these grace-motivated good works by giving us treasure in heaven.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What kinds of things tend to draw your heart away from the love that should go to Jesus? (Parents, help your children remember the things they fight over. Our selfishness often reveals our idols and sinful cravings. If we love something too much, we usually selfishly guard it so that it can't be lost or taken away.)

What kinds of things can you do to store up treasure in heaven? (All grace - motivated good works will be rewarded by God, who will judge everything we do.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you love Him more than money or nice things.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 6:25-32

There is no need to worry under the Father's care. Most people forget that God is behind the scenes, providing everything they need. We often think we provide for ourselves. It is true we work to receive wages, and with those wages we buy food and clothing. But God sustains our health and strength, and blesses the work of our hands. God provides our jobs, and even the rain to allow the food we eat to grow. God is in control of every detail of our lives! When we worry, we fall into unbelief. Then we feel pressure to strive for what we need. We have a heavenly Father who loves us more than all the animals He provides for. So, we do not need to worry, because if He loves us more than the animals, He will give us what we need.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Can you think of a time when God provided for your family in a way you did not expect, plan or work for? (Help your children by reminding them of times when God provided for you. This could be a job offer you did not seek out, an unexpected financial blessing or some great hand-me-down clothes or toys.)

Can you think of a time when you began to worry about your needs and forgot to trust God? (This one may be a bit more difficult for your children. You, however, should be able to recount a season when things were tight when you were tempted to doubt or strive apart from faith in God's provision.)

PRAY:

Thank God for providing for you. Ask the Lord to help you have faith and not doubt.



**WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

THE STORY: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:4-7

Although it is very true that we cannot serve God and money, it is equally true that we cannot serve God alone unless God changes our hearts. Our hearts will by nature be fixed upon earthly treasure unless Jesus gives us a new nature and a love for Himself. Jesus died so that we could find our treasure in Him rather than the treasures of this world. Jesus is the treasure God has placed in our hearts. As unbelievers we were blind to see this treasure. God allowed His light to shine in our hearts that we might believe in Jesus. Now we carry this treasure in jars of clay. Jesus is our master. All other treasure will pass away. Why would we want to unseat the Lord for earthly gain?

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who is the light of the gospel? (The glory of Jesus is the light of the gospel, the wonder of all Jesus did.)

What is the treasure we have in jars of clay? (Jesus is the treasure we hold dear in our heart.)

PRAY:

Take time to pray for family or friends who remain blind to the light of the gospel.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: MATTHEW 6:33,34

Seek first the kingdom of God and the Lord will take care of you. It is kind of God to give us something to do instead of worrying. It would be much more difficult if the Lord said, “Do not worry; just be patient.” We are doers by nature. Instead, God tells us to seek after His kingdom and His righteousness. We can pray as we trust God for food and ask Him for help. We can read the Bible and grow in purity and strength while we trust God to bless us with money for clothes. We can serve others while we trust that our needs will be met. When the Lord, His kingdom and His righteousness are our treasures, God our Father in heaven promises to take care of us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What clue does this passage give us that tells us we are worrying too much? (We are worrying too much if we not only worry about today but tomorrow as well.)

What kinds of things can you do to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness? (God’s kingdom is His rule and authority. The best place to seek God’s kingdom is in the Bible. The Bible tells us all about God’s kingdom and what we can do to better follow God. For example, when we read about loving one another, doing so advances God’s kingdom in our lives. When we do what God asks us to do, we advance God’s rule in our heart. That advances His kingdom in our lives.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you seek after His rule and His kingdom and His righteousness.



FRIDAY ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 22:1-4

David sang these words in praise to God for deliverance. David's words, though they refer to God saving him from His immediate enemies, also point forward prophetically. The truth is, apart from the future saving work of Christ, there would be only judgment for David, not salvation. In fact, every time God saves His people from harm in the Old Testament accounts, God points to the work of Jesus that will come. It is because of what Jesus was going to do that salvation was extended to Israel. And salvation was extended to David so that Jesus could come. Every time David was saved from death, his lineage was preserved so that Jesus, the descendant of David, might come!

TALK ABOUT IT:

When we read David's words of praise today, who should we think of? (We should think of Jesus. He is our horn of salvation, our refuge, and our Savior.)

How does this passage complement Jesus' words in Matthew 6 about not worrying and about seeking first the kingdom, of God? (David trusted the Lord, and God provided for David. Few of us have a sinful king trying to kill us. If David could trust the Lord in his grave situation we should be able to trust God for our daily needs.)

PRAY:

Make David's prayer of praise your own. Pray to the Lord and thank Him for being your rock, fortress, deliverer, horn of salvation, stronghold, refuge and Savior.