

**Sunday School**  
**May 3, 2020**

-Read: Matthew 6:19-24

-Questions to consider and discuss:

- Verses 19-21 teach us that earthly treasures, such as money or fancy possessions, are not eternal.
  - Read: Ecclesiastes 2:18-23. Ultimately, no matter how much money you make, or how great of an empire you build up for yourself, it will eventually come crumbling down. A poor investment will be made, a foolish descendant will spend it all, or time will wear it down and cause it to rot. Wealth is not eternal; you can't take it with you when you die, so don't become attached to possessions.
  - **Q:** What do you think Jesus means by "treasures in heaven"? List out some examples of things that you can "store up" that have an eternal quality to them.
- In Jewish literature, the "eye" and the "heart" had similar metaphysical functions. Just as the heart is viewed as the center for emotions and thoughts, the eye is a lens that reveals the quality of a person's inner life.
  - If a person's "eye" is cloudy (thus impairing their vision), this signifies inner moral corruption (notice how many times Jesus calls the scribes and Pharisees "blind" in Matthew 23). Likewise, a healthy "eye" with clear vision signifies upright living in relation to God.
  - If even the "best" parts of a person are pretty corrupt and ugly, think of just how awful the *worst* parts of a person are. We need to strive to live morally righteous lives before God and our fellow human beings. The conduct of our lives is pretty obvious to people, and we certainly can't hide anything from God (cf. Proverbs 20:11; 1 Peter 2:12).
- It has been said that everyone is a slave to something. The Bible uses this word frequently, not just for people who are literally slaves according to their social standing, but also for people who figuratively slaves to something or someone. The Greek word for "slave" is *doulos* (sometimes translated "servant" or "bondservant"; "slave" is a more accurate translation).
  - You only get to choose one person or thing to be enslaved to. In every case but one, this relationship will *feel* like you are trapped, shackled to do the bidding of whatever it is that holds sway over your heart.
  - The exception to this is being a slave to Christ. Paul actually describes himself this way numerous times (cf. Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1). Paradoxically, making yourself a "slave" to Jesus is actually *freeing*, for you are not following your own ways or the ways of someone or something that is leading you into darkness, and are instead following the ways of God, which lead to everlasting life (a freeing thing indeed).
  - **Q:** What are some people or things that you've been enslaved to (or maybe still are)?
- What is one takeaway from this teaching from the Sermon on the Mount that you can apply this week?