

## SUNDAY

November 7, 2010

**READ:** Matthew 6:19-24

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** Think about some of the words and metaphors used in this passage. What would you call a “treasure”? What would be the “moths and vermin (or rust)” that would destroy this treasure? What does it mean that the eye is the lamp of the body? How can your body be full of light or darkness? What are the two masters that Jesus is talking about in this passage?

**KEY CONCEPT:** This world is not our true home. We need to focus our eyes on eternal values that will guide how we live in our daily lives.

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** What are the top three things that you consider to be treasures in your life? How do you manage or protect them? What are you willing to sacrifice to add to this treasure? Do you spend much time thinking about these treasures and how to obtain more of them?

**PRAY:** This week we will be spending time considering how to value things from a kingdom perspective. Ask God to help you comprehend His value system, and how it may be translated in such a way as for you to more fully integrate it into your own life.

## MONDAY

November 8, 2010

**READ:** Matthew 6:19-24 (emphasis verse 19)

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** How does one “store up treasures” for oneself?

**KEY CONCEPT:** The accumulation of wealth for its own sake is deceptive, because one can find in material treasure a false sense of security or an inaccurate assessment of one’s spirituality.<sup>1</sup>

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** What are your motivations for wanting to build up your net worth...your “earthly treasures” so to speak?

Do you find that having money in the bank gives you a sense of security? Can you ever have “enough” to provide full security?

Do you equate a person’s material wealth (or lack of it) with being blessed or cursed by God?

**PRAY:** Of course our eternal security rests upon God’s grace and love for us as revealed in Jesus’ death and resurrection. But also of great importance is our daily security, which God desires us to entrust to Him as well. Spend time in prayer today taking those things which create anxiety in our hearts, and giving them to God, praying for His help to restructure our lives and our worldview in a way that begins to shift our sense of security from “our stuff” to God Himself in some fashion.

<sup>1</sup>From: [The NIV Application Commentary \(Matthew\)](#) by Michael J. Wilkins. Page 293

## TUESDAY

November 9, 2010

**READ:** Matthew 6:19-24

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** What is the difference between an earthly treasure and a heavenly treasure?

**KEY CONCEPT:** The contrast of “treasures on earth” with “treasures in heaven” implies a contrast of values.<sup>2</sup>

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** Look at your checkbook or bank statement. Take a sheet of paper and make two columns on it. Label one column “Earthly Treasure” and another “Heavenly Treasure”. Put the expenditures in one column or the other (e.g. cable bill = earthly treasure; benevolence offering; = heavenly treasure, etc.). Do you think that you are storing up treasures in heaven? Are you moving toward storing up heavenly treasures in an intentional way?

Read Matthew 19:16-22. Why is it difficult for people to transfer our earthly treasure to heavenly ones?

**PRAY:** Spend time in prayer today seeking to understand your heart as it relates to your value system. Ask God to reveal your true values to yourself...and then ask Him to help you understand how you may re-prioritize them in a better way, perhaps adopting new ones and letting some fall away altogether.

<sup>2</sup>From: [The NIV Application Commentary \(Matthew\)](#) by Michael J. Wilkins. Page 293

## WEDNESDAY

November 10, 2010

**READ:** Matthew 6:24

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** What are the masters referred to in this verse? What does it mean to love or hate a master?

**KEY CONCEPT:** The biblical notion of “hate” and “love” understands them to be patterns of life, not simple emotional reactions.<sup>3</sup>

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** The first commandment says that we are to have no other gods before the Lord in our lives. How can you evaluate the priority of God in your heart? Is the pattern of your life to have God in first place?

Read Luke 14:26. Is it hard for you to place God before your loved ones in your heart? What other things beside money and family compete to be your master?

**PRAY:** God has blessed us in so many ways. There is a priority of importance to each of them. Ask Him to help you properly rank these things, so as to keep our relationship with Him uppermost, living out our lives focused on what He values.

<sup>3</sup>From: [The NIV Application Commentary \(Matthew\)](#) by Michael J. Wilkins. Page 295

## THURSDAY

November 11, 2010

**READ:** Matthew 6:24

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** How does one “serve God”? How does one “serve money”? Which gives greater satisfaction? Why?

**KEY CONCEPT:** Disciples are to have no other god - whether it is money or success or self - before Jesus as our Master and Provider as we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.<sup>4</sup>

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** As disciples of Jesus and as person living in the real world, you have both God and money as a part of your life. This verse tells us that they compete for our worship...desiring to become our master. What do you do to safeguard your heart for God...to protect yourself from being swayed over to a worldly perspective that tells us that we have to “look out for number one?”

**PRAY:** Ask the Lord what “other god” may be in your heart (money is just one of several possibilities), vying for the place that He belongs on the throne of your life. As He reveals the answer, bring it before Him during a time of confession, asking God to help you live for His purpose and plan. Then keep your eyes and ears open for how He will guide you into a new understanding of doing life with Him seated on the throne of your heart.

<sup>4</sup>From: The NIV Application Commentary (Matthew) by Michael J. Wilkins. Page 302

## FRIDAY

November 12, 2010

**READ:** Matthew 6:19-24; 1 Thess. 4:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:6-15; 1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 19:17; Acts 11:27-30; Rom 15:25-27; 1 Cor. 9:3-14; Phil. 4:14-19; 1 Tim. 5:17-19

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** What are some of the things that these Scriptures tell us about ways to handle our wealth that please God?

**KEY CONCEPT:** Money, wealth, and possessions have uses that honor God’s plan for life on earth.

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** How can we be the master of our money rather than become the slave of it?

What categories of using money for God’s purposes gives you the greatest satisfaction (i.e. 1. providing appropriate care for our family and preventing them from becoming a burden to others; 2. helping others in times of their need; 3. supporting God’s work in spreading the gospel message.) Are you actively looking for opportunities to be used by God in any of these ways?

**PRAY:** Scripture reveals that our wealth and possessions help us to honor God and His plan for our lives. Ask Him to continue to reveal specifically how He would want you to manage your assets so that you can serve His kingdom purposes more effectively.

<sup>5</sup>From: The NIV Application Commentary (Matthew) by Michael J. Wilkins. Page 304

## SATURDAY

November 13, 2010

**READ:** Matthew 6:20; Colossians 3:2

**OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:** God values people above possessions and our character above our performance. How does your life toward other people reflect these same values that God has about you?

**KEY CONCEPT:** What we do in this life has echoes in eternity. Having the perspective of living for eternity can make all the difference in the world.<sup>6</sup>

**QUESTIONS TO PONDER:** What echoes in eternity is your life having?

How can we learn to set our minds “on things above?”

What is your purpose for living?

**PRAY:** : As we finish this week’s focus on the battle between God and money for lordship of our lives, contemplate what God has revealed to you about your own value system over the past week. Continue to pray about anything that He has revealed to you, and seek to honor Him as the Lord of your life...and your possessions.

<sup>6</sup>From: Our Daily Bread. Jan. 3, 2007

Personal Devotional Guide  
November 7 - 13, 2010

Weekly Podcast:  
www.mclanechurch.org/w3/Tables/Sermons/



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