**There Are No Thieves In Heaven**

What absorbs your life? I ask you that question tonight? What absorbs your life? What controls your decisions? When I say “what absorbs your life” I mean those things which you think about constantly. I mean those things that you are striving to achieve and gain. I mean those things that you desire most in this life. What is your end-goal, your primary motivation, your purpose in everything? So, I ask again, WHAT ABSORBS YOUR LIFE

This might be the most important question you ask yourself this week. It might be one of the most important questions you ask yourself in your entire life. Why is it so important? Because Jesus was concerned with that which absorbs our life. He is concerned with what we desire most in life. He is concerned with where our heart is.

Matthew 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rustdestroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20**but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **22**“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, **23**but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **24**“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (ESV)

Our treasure on earth can be anything that ends with life on this earth. Your treasure may be money, or your job or your favorite forms of entertainment. Your treasure might be your education, your possessions, or your reputations. Your treasure is what you value. Your treasure is those things you live for. We all live for something. Some of us live for money or fame. Some of us are consumed by a constant passion for sports or entertainment, movies or television.

But Jesus warns that putting our hope and joy in these things is fleeting and useless, for they will all waste away one day. Everything in this life fades away. Everything in this life gets old. It all wastes away. There is no eternality to a phone, a sport, fame, fortune, or possessions. Even the best physique will waste away. They will all one day be destroyed or belong to someone else when we leave this earth. Paul warns of the dangers of becoming too focused on these things that are fleeting:

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, **7**for we brought nothing into the world, andwe cannot take anything out of the world. **8**But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. **9**But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (ESV)

Paul restates Jesus’ words. The desire of riches and possession and of the things of this world make us useless in good works. They lead us into evil, and when we are led into evil we are led away from Christ; we are led away from the things of heaven, the things eternal, the things forever.

But there is hope that the things of heaven, the things of the eternal world do not have this curse. They will not waste away; they will be forever.

Jesus tells us to make sure our treasure is in heaven—to make sure that what we value most in life are the things in heaven—the things that last forever. Storing up treasures in heaven means we are absorbed with the things of the world to come. The things that absorb our life, the things that become the center of it, must not be things of earth. But what are those things? I’ve said it many times before: the only thing we can take to heaven us is other people. Sure, relationships with others on earth are important because those relationships may translate to the world to come, but those relationships that do so are an overflow of a heart set on the things of God—on holiness, righteousness, love and faith—focused on God Himself.

Our heart represents the central part of our being. It represents our emotions and our thoughts, our desires and our passions. Our heart represents what we love. Our heart represents the things that absorb and consume our life. And our heart will be found wherever those things we love, and desire are found. Our heart will be found wherever our treasure—our greatest desires are. Our heart is either in heaven with God or on earth with possessions, with reputation, with fortune, with entertainment.

This verse on the eye as the lamp of the body has confused many a person over the ages, but it is actually quite a simple explanation: What we allow to enter our minds and hearts affects us deeply. The eye is what lets light in—or darkness for that matter. What we let into our lives—what we let consume us and enter our hearts and minds will ultimately determine where our heart is.

All of this to say: Our heart will be led to where our treasure is found. We are led by what we desire for. That is why Jesus brings up having two masters. Actually, he uses the term “mammon”. The term “mammon” is one that has confused many others. Most take it to mean “money”, “wealth”, “property” etc. Our treasures The whole point of this line, however, is less about money and more about what controls us—who our master is. God demands undivided loyalty. We cannot serve both God and the passions of this life. Your master in this life is that which informs your every decision. When you have two masters eventually they will bring forth opposing demands on your life. For example, money will demand you cut back on giving to God, but God commands your giving. Possessions demand your attention, but God does too. Which master will win? You choose! As Joshua said in the Old Testament: “Choose this day whom you will serve”. Will entertainment, reputation, money or possessions control your life, or will it be God Himself, your Creator and Savior?

Do you make decisions based on your checkbook or on what God has told you to give? We cannot let God and money control our every decision. It has to be one or the other. When your treasure is in heaven, God will be your master, and when God is your master your treasure will be in heaven with Him.

Is God your everything? Is He what permeates your thoughts and your life? Do you live for Him and for your future with Him? It all goes back to this motivation. It all goes back to what drives us to do what we do. Do we come to church for fun, for friendships or for God who wants a relationship with us? This is not to mean that having money or possessions or a good reputation or entertainment or the things of this world is wrong. No, they are okay to have, but they must not have you. It is okay to have things as long as things do not have you!