

I Will Build My Church

Sunday, May 28, 2017

Matthew 6:19-24

Review – Week 1 – I Will Build My Church Matt 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Week 2 – The Cost of being a Disciple Luke 14:33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Introduction – Our goal is to renounce all to be a disciple of Christ. This impacts how we handle our time, possessions and talents. Today this is what will be discussed.

Focus Point- “For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. May your treasure be found in heaven”

I. Sermon on the Mount

- a. Chapters 5-7, covers the beatitudes, ethical admonitions and contrasts between Jesus ethical teaching and Jewish legalistic traditions...the sermon ends with a parable stressing the importance of practicing what has just been taught.
- b. Chapter 6 introduces the discussion of 3 acts of righteousness
 - i. V1 – v6 discusses when giving to the needy to do so in a way that does not draw attention to ourselves, by doing so we have already received our reward. But instead give discreetly and your Father will reward you.
 - ii. V5 – v15 teaches us to pray in a way that does not draw attention to ourselves, when we do so we have already received our reward. Prayer done in secret is rewarded by our Father.
 - iii. V16 – v17 teaches us that same about fasting. To do so discreetly so our Father in heaven will reward us.
 - iv. Action/Heart/Reward

II. Matthew 6:19-24

- a. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal (v.19)
 - i. Treasures in that time period were gold, silver, fancy garments, stockpiles of grain, jewels, etc. None last!
 - ii. What are our treasures here on earth? List some of yours:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

“Many Christians dread the thought of leaving this world. Why? Because so many have stored up their treasures on earth, not in heaven. Each day brings us closer to death. If your treasures are on earth, that means each day brings you closer to losing your treasures.” – Randy Alcorn

- b. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (v. 20-21)
 - i. What is treasure in heaven? The Jews defined storing up treasure in heaven as deeds of mercy and deeds of kindness to people in distress.
 - ii. Jesus states similar meaning in Luke 12:33-34
 - iii. V. 21 takes it to the heart. Our hearts should be towards heaven and we should be using our money, time and talent doing things for His glory that will last for eternity.

“You must keep all earthy treasures out of your heart, and let Christ be your treasure, and let Him have your heart.” - Charles Spurgeon

- c. 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! (v. 23)
 - i. The eye is similar to the heart.

- ii. It reveals what's inside – good or bad
- d. 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 (v. 24)
 - i. Your affections and obedience will always be divided..and you would fail one.
 - ii. We often try to convince ourselves we are the exception. Not true.
 - iii. Scripture is clear – It can't be done.

III. **How can we apply this passage to our lives today?**

- a. First, we need to ask ourselves are we using our time, money and talents to accumulate treasures on earth.
- b. Identify ways we might justify laying up treasures on earth
 - i. Projection – this is referring to someone else.
 - ii. Perspective – your experience defines your definition of wealth.
 - iii. American Dream – don't we all deserve to live out the American dream.
 - iv. Comparison – I am not rich, the Jones' are rich
 - v. Blindness – we just don't see it, blinders on our eyes.
 - vi. Hopeless – we are aware, but don't know how to change or are too scared to try.
- c. Realize whether we are talking about the cost of being a disciple or laying up treasures in heaven that we too easily let ourselves off the hook for comfort sake.
- d. Second, we need to identify how we are laying up treasures in heaven. How are we using our time, possession and talents to invest in others and further His kingdom? Here are some ideas.
 - i. Local sphere – friends, family, work
 - ii. Community – giving and helping those in Gainesville
 - iii. Church – serving and giving to help it reach the lost
 - iv. Global – investing in ministries to reach the lost around the world?

Not one man has ever sacrificed for his Lord without being richly repaid. If the cross is only contrasted with earthly pleasures lost, it may seem hard and threatening. But when the cross is weighed in the balances with the glorious treasures to be had through it, even the cross seems sweet. – Walter J. Chantry

IV. **How do we change?**

- a. Repent
- b. Change our way of thinking about money

“Too often we assume that God has increased our income to increase our standard of living, when his stated purpose is to increase our standard of giving. (Look again at 2 Corinthians 8:14 and 9:11).” – Randy Alcorn.

- c. Read Scripture - 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Colossians 3:23, Matthew 10:42
- d. Talk – Discuss with fellow believers about treasures on earth and heaven.
- e. Pray – That the Holy Spirit will continually guide you in knowing how to change.
- f. Build – Begin to use your time, money and talents for God's Kingdom

V. **Response**

He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures. To him, death is loss. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him, death is gain. He who spends his life moving toward his treasures has reason to rejoice. Are you despairing or rejoicing? Randy Alcorn

This week ask yourself the following questions:

1. **What do I value most? Where is my heart?**
2. **Am I accumulating treasure on earth?**
3. **If so, what should I do about it?**
4. **Am I actively pursuing laying up treasures in heaven?**
5. **How am I doing that or what can I do to start doing that?**