

Laying Up Treasures in Heaven

Matthew 6:19-21

I. What Jesus *Is Not* Prohibiting vs. 19

Our Lord is definitely not forbidding the kind of planning and storing up of goods either commended or required in other passages of Scripture.

Proverbs 6:6-8
1 Timothy 5:8
1 Timothy 6:17

II. What Jesus *Is* Prohibiting vs. 19

Our Lord is prohibiting the *selfish desire* to have *more* than what one needs. He is prohibiting *greed*. Note that He used Greek word *thēsauros*, which is translated *treasures* in the New King James Version. See also:

Matthew 2:11
Matthew 13:44

As John Stott has written concerning this verse:

The earthly treasure we covet, Jesus reminds us, 'grows rusty and moth-eaten, and thieves break in to steal it' (NEB). The Greek word for 'rust' (*brōsis*) actually means 'eating'; it could refer to the corrosion caused by rust but equally to any devouring pest or vermin. Thus in those days moths would get into people's clothes, rats and mice eat the stored grain, worms take whatever they put under ground, and thieves break into their home and steal whatever they kept there. Nothing was safe in the ancient world. And for us moderns, who try to protect our treasures by insecticides, rat poison, mouse-traps, rust-proof paints, and burglar alarms, it disintegrates instead through inflation and devaluation or an economic slump. Even if some of it lasts through this life, we can take none of it with us to the next. Job was right: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return.' (*The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, p. 155-156)

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

III. What Jesus *Is* Promoting vs. 20-21

Our Lord wants us to seek rewards in heaven and to set our hearts there.

Matthew 5:12
Matthew 6:4
Matthew 6:6
Matthew 6:18
1 Corinthians 3:8-15