

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ▫ Read Matthew 6:19–34

Questions from the Scripture text: What shouldn't we lay up where (v19)? What happens there? What should we lay up where instead (v20)? What doesn't happen there? When we lay up our treasure somewhere, what else will be there (v21)? What is the lamp of the body (v22)? What happens if you have a good (clear) eye? But if you have an evil (cloudy) eye, what will be full of what (v23a)? What is in danger of being darkness (v23b)? With what result? What can no one do (v24)? What must he do? Which two specific masters can we not simultaneously serve? What does Jesus say not to do in v25a? What two things mustn't we worry about for our life? What else mustn't we worry about (v25b)? What mustn't we worry about for our body? What does v25c imply about our life and our body? At whom does v26 say to look? What don't they do? So, Who feeds them? Whom does He value more? What does v27 ask? What does v28 ask? What are we to consider? How they do what? What don't they do? To whom are they compared in v29? How did he compare to them? Who has thus clothed them (v30)? And what is going to happen to them? Whom will He much more clothe? What does Jesus call us at the end of v30? What does v31 forbid? What three things, specifically, does it say not to worry about? Who seek after all these (v32)? But Who knows that we need them? What two names does v33 give to what we should seek instead? What will be added if we do? Even seeking His righteousness, about what are we not to worry (v34)? Why?

How do believers come to find God as their true and great treasure? Matthew 6:19–34 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these sixteen of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **believers come to find God as their true and great treasure when He gives them light to see Who He is and what He is doing**.

What do vv19–20 mean by "lay up treasure"? v24 gives us a good idea when it talks about treasure on earth as serving the mammon master and about treasure in heaven as serving God instead.

Either God is a way to get what we really want as we live and work, or else all of our living and working is a way to serve God. Sadly, I've heard presentations of "the gospel" that come primarily from a standpoint of all of that God can do for you to serve your interests.

But vv22–23 tell us that viewing God this way is a strategy for making your life only darkness without light (v23, "how great is that darkness!"). It's like replacing your eyeballs with two giant cataracts so that no light gets through at all. Viewing God as a way to increase your earthly prosperity shuts you up in such darkness that you do not properly function in any way (v23, "if your eye is cloudy, your whole body will be full of darkness").

One might protest, "but I have to survive! I have to focus on getting things and storing them up!" In that case, one would be doing the worrying that v25 forbids. But if God cares about our whole life, then surely living in service to Him (including working hard and combining frugality and generosity, as His own Word teaches us to do) will not ultimately result in missing out on something we need.

The nations seek, with their lives, food and drink and clothing (v31–32a). But they don't know God as heavenly Father and therefore don't have confidence that He knows (and cares about and acts upon) their needs (v32b). If worrying about things like that exposes a heart that doesn't really know Father, then what does it say about us if we are full of worry about even less needful things?

Our God has shown great care and lavish generosity on creatures that we value very little (v26–30). But He values us even more than we value ourselves! "How much more" (v30b) is His care for us and generosity toward us!!

It is this recognizing of examples of God's love toward all His creatures all around us that neutralizes worrying and supports and enables living our lives in service of Him. He is the best Master. Money doesn't know, doesn't care, and cannot love you back. With worry eliminated, all the expenditure of our life that goes into worrying (v34) can be redirected into seeking to live righteously before our King (v33). After all, He is our Provider and Protector, which demands that we recognize Him as our Master and live in service to Him!

What are some examples of creatures that you see God taking care of? How does His care for you and generosity compare? What is the greatest example of this? What else will He do for you? What does this free you to spend your life upon?

Sample prayer: Lord, we bless Your Name for the generous design of Your creation and the generous conduct of Your providence. Surely, You love Your creatures, but of all of them, You have made us in Your image and redeemed us in Your Son. What a great wickedness our worrying is, O God! And how greatly it harms us by leading us into serving earthly interests with our lives! Forgive us, and grant unto us the ministry of Your Spirit, so that we would thereby be enabled to live vigorously on earth as those who serve You and obey Your righteous law! For this, we cry to You through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP73C "Yet Constantly, I Am with You" or TPH508 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 6, verse 19 through 34, these are God's words. Do not lay up for yourselves, treasures on earth. Or moth and rust. Destroyed my thieves breaking and steel. But lay up for yourselves, treasures in heaven. Where neither moth nor rust destroys or thieves.

To not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there. Your heart will be also. The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore, your eye is good. Your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.

If therefore. The light that is in here. Is darkness. How great is that darkness? No one can serve two masters or either. He will hate the one and love the other. Or else you will be loyal to the one and despise the other. Cannot serve god and mammon. Therefore, i say to you do not worry about your life.

What you eat or what you will drink? Or about your body. What you'll put on? There's not life more than food. And the body more than clothing. Look at the birds of the air for they neither so no read or gather into barns. Yet your heavenly father, feeds them.

Are you not have more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature. So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field. How they grow. They neither toil nor spin. Yet, i say to you that even solomon and all his glory, Was not arrayed like one of these.

Now of god. So close the grass of the field. Which today is and tomorrow, is thrown into the oven. Well, he not more much more clothe, you Oh, you little faith. Therefore do not worry. Say what shall eat, what shall we drink? Or What shall we wear for after all these things?

The gentiles seek. For your heavenly father. Knows that you need all these things. But seek first, the kingdom of god, and his righteousness. And all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry at that tomorrow. For tomorrow. We'll worry about its own things sufficient for the day.

Is its own trouble.

So far the reading of gods inspired and inherent work.

So he says, do not lay up for yourself. Treasures on earth. But treasures in heaven. And in verse 19, and then He talks about the two different treasures in verse 24. Where you have to love one. Uh, and hate the other. You can't. Love both. And we see what the treasure on earth is, that's mammon wealth.

The accumulation of stock But the treasure in heaven, turns out to be not stuff that you accumulate. It turns out to be the living god himself. And so, he's And he's saying, To have god as your treasure and if god is your treasure, nothing can take him away. Peter writes the same thing when he talks about the Inheritance that we have, that has kept for us that Uh, is undefiled in perishable.

Um, Moth and rust. Cannot eat it. Fire cannot destroy it. These cannot take it. Because it is god himself. And we know why there is such a thing as The loss of. Um, even earthly treasure. By fire or moth or rust and especially like eaves That's because of sinness, because of the fall.

This is the great thing that. Has lost for us. Not just earthly treasure, but the heavenly treasure And so, when it comes to us at the end of the passage and his summering, not, he's summing summarizing or summing up. Um, What it is to lay up, treasure in heaven.

He says seek first, the kingdom of god. And his righteousness. Because in order to have god, We must have righteousness. It's not just that you can't have god and love of money at the same time. You absolutely cannot have god and sin at the same time. And so god has given him.

Who is the treasurer of heaven? God himself. God, the sun. To be the one who bears. The Penalty for our sin. So that we may no longer be under the wrath of god and enemies of god. But in his love, He gave his son in his love. He who is the son gave himself?

So that we might be attended for no longer be. God's enemies. But god's friends, god's subjects even God's own children. And so this is the great thing. That the lord jesus has gained. For us as god himself and this is the great way. That jesus has gained god himself for us.

Is by giving himself. Who is god? He gave himself for us. That he might give himself to us. And this is, Uh, this is what we are to see. The only thing that you can see with, Physically is your eye. And if you're i is bad. And i know there are The same word as used for evil, and Uh, but if your eye is bad, you can't see at all your blind.

You're in darkness. While the right sort of spiritual eye, is the, the eye that sees that god is light and brightness and good. Rather than all the stuff that the flesh lies to us, And tells us. Money pleasure. Entertainment. The admiration and praise of other men. Um, Getting to do whatever we want.

All these sorts of things that. The heart that is dead. And blind. Goes after instead of god. He says, so as long as, Your desires or functioning that way, as long as that's what your your wanting with your life and aiming at with your life. You're like a blind man.

The the capacity. That you have that was designed to see the value of god. Is instead blinding you? And he says, if the light that is in you is darkness. How great is that darkness? Now. We might think. That. That we are. Treasuring god. Uh, but There's a test here in verses 25 to 34.

That exposes, To us that perhaps we are not treasuring him as much as we thought. And that test is whether we are worrying. And whether we are warriors. If we have god as our treasure, If we know him as the one who is lord overall, Who feeds the birds?

And who clothes the flowers? And if we know that he is our heavenly father in the lord jesus christ, Then. If we genuinely know these things, we will not worry. Well, not worry about what we eat or drink because god, who gave himself? For our life to give himself to be our life.

Surely whatever food and drink. He gives us. Will be just.

Surely whatever food and drink. He gives us. Will be just what we need. For that particular day. Even if we are hungry. And even if we are thirsty, he is our heavenly father. You don't remember the birds and forget us. He didn't remember the grass, but forget us. In fact, he gives us just the amount of trouble that is right.

Each day. Um, The reason to not worry. About tomorrow. Is because sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Wonderful little statement here at the end of verse 34. So, he's picked out. The right amount of food, and drink. And The right amount of clothing. And he's also picked for us the right amount of trouble.

Just the right trouble for each day. Because he is at last, isn't he? Bringing us into a new heavens and a new earth. And if there are mods in the new heavens and new earth, it will not be destroyers of clothing. Rust. Uh, well, not destroy. If there's anything like rust.

It'll be something that actually like, improves the material, whatever it is. Who knows? What? The wonderful new physics of the new heavens and the new earth is Integration. That is not bound to corruption and decay, because of our said, And so, the The lord who has given himself. For us.

That he might give himself to us. And together with himself, give us all things in a new heaven, and a new earth in which there is no sin. And no misery, no corruption, no decay. Shortly, whatever food or drink or clothing or trouble. Uh, he gifts to us. Is just the right thing to be that.

We need to grow over in our Appreciation of his providence to us. I think we live with a lot of unnecessary anxiety. And worry. Forgetting that. Even. The trouble that comes. As a result of my own sin doesn't excuse it. And yet, it is just what i needed and the Lord's.

Process of sanctifying me, bringing me into Where Christ has earned for me, even the trouble that he gives me as a result of your own sin. Is not. Is not the plans of heaven going right? But it is, whatever is good for me and the opportunity that he's given.

To me to serve serve him in your life and to serve you. As part of your life and the part that he has given me, In your life. And, This view of providence. That moment by moment day by day, the lord is Portioning out to us exactly what we need in every part of life.

As a heavenly father. It has given christ for us. That he might give himself to us. This is. What we must grow into. As christians and then we will be treasuring him. Every day of our life. Now, And we'll have him, of course, as our Treasure in heaven and our treasure forever.

This is what he means when he says, do not lie up for yourselves, treasures on earth. Went up for yourself's. Treasures in heaven. Where your treasure is there, your heart will be also. May he be our treasure and may he have our hearts? What's asking forward to help us?

Father, we thank you for this portion of your word. You pray for pastor brown and see preaches it tomorrow. And for us and the rest of the congregation. As we hear, That your spirit would help him. That he would have a. Good, understanding of the passage and that. You would give him liberty.

In his own spirit as he preaches. That comes. From having the text like hold of him. And we pray for ourselves. But your spirit would write the truth of this

portion of your word on our hearts. And that you would give us the liberty. Of treasuring. And, Delighting in and loving and having confidence in and serving you.

Lord, we wish to live these lives. Of knowing that we have exactly what we need all the time. Of not being anxious or worrying or stressed. And we can see very plainly right here in the passage. The. The theological view of our circumstances. Uh, that leads to such a life.

But lord, we have not found ourselves able to Produce such a view from within ourselves. And indeed, we know from the rest of your word that we are not able to But you are able to give it to us and you have given us your spirit. And your word by your spirit.

And which your spirit uses. So we pray that your spirit would bless your word to us. What we might have this view of you and this view of our lives. For, we ask it in jesus name. Amen.