



# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM

### AN INTRODUCTION TO “THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM”

This section serves two purposes. It is the close of Matthew 6:1-21 and introduces our final section (6:25-7:29). Jesus here sums up not only the previous section on spiritual disciplines but really the whole sermon. He teaches us two things: First, there are earthly and heavenly rewards and the heavenly rewards are much better and second, that what really matters (and what dictates which rewards you get) are a matter of the heart.

The eyes are the lamp of the body, so what are you looking at? What catches your gaze? What makes you dream? Jesus makes this important observation and then apparently changes the subject to money, or does he? Is this a non-sequitur or is Jesus pulling a Jesus and revealing what is probably true about us? Jesus spends more time than the average preacher talking about money because (as he says) it is at the root of all kinds of evil.

### WEEK ONE: *“Treasures in Heaven”*

Matthew 6: 19-24

From the moment we are born, we are taught to focus on, work for, and live for the things of this world. Our parents may have told to get the best grades in school, or perhaps we work overtime every week to have the best numbers in

the office, or maybe we strive simply to have the nicest of possessions...most things we pursue are deemed worthy because they bring us treasure in this world. In this passage Jesus calls us to evaluate what we treasure, as these things are the objects we devote ourselves to.

Jesus didn't just call us to a command to *not* treasure things in the world, but to treasure the things of the kingdom. His commands are not meant to rob us of life, but to fill us with life to the fullest.

If your financial advisor told you that the company you had invested stock into was going out of business next year, your first reaction would be to redirect your investment. Jesus wants us to understand is that it is not wise for us to invest our primary time, energy, efforts, money, or thoughts into things that are not going to last.

The people, possessions, and earnings we focus on will act as the driving force to do what we do. Whatever our treasure is, there our heart lies also. It is Jesus' desire in this part of the Sermon on the Mount to get us to think critically about what we find our treasure in. When material things become the subject of our focus, we often end up using people to love those things. But when our riches are stored in the promises of His kingdom that is both now and to come, our grip on earthly things loosens and we are better enabled to extend a hand of generosity to those around us.

1. *Read Matthew 6:19-24.*
2. *What can you learn about God's character in these verses?*
3. *How did Jesus fulfill what he is teaching?*
4. *What ways do you find yourself storing your treasures on earth? How about the kingdom of God? Give one example of each.*
5. *How do you extend the generosity God has shown you to those in your daily life (coworkers, customers, friends, family, etc.)? How do you struggle?*
6. *Jesus teaches us that the things of this world will eventually pass away and do not have to firm of a grasp on them. In what ways do you believe God's Spirit is leading you to reconsider where you store your treasure?*