

\Matthew 6:19-34
(Psalm 37:16-292 Corinthians 9:6-15)
“Where Your Treasure Is, There Also Is Your Heart”

Introduction

Two weeks ago we looked at what at may appear to be a contradiction in Jesus’ words: first he tells us that we are “the light of the world” and that we must “let [our] light shine before others, so that they may see [our] good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven” (5:14-16). But then he says, “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them” (6:1). How are we to let our light shine so that our good works may be seen by others while at the same time being careful not to practice our righteousness before others so as to be seen by them?

As we saw, the answer is found in the difference between “relational” behavior and “religious” behavior. People are moved toward the gospel, not by how religious they think we are, but by how well we love them and how we love one another is the context of chapter five. Too often we think that people will be drawn to the gospel if they see us being religious. Not so, says Jesus. Practice your “religion” – give gifts, pray and fast – in order to accomplish the ends appropriate to each spiritual exercise, and in order to experience more deeply your own intimate relationship with God. But don’t give, pray and fast in order that others may see you being religious.

What Jesus is aiming at in this section of the gospel known as the Sermon on the Mount is a description of the kind of life he desires from those who would follow him. We are *not* made right with God by living such a life. We are made right with God by God’s grace and mercy towards us, by God’s forgiving us and restoring us to intimacy with him while we are still sinners. But we grow in that intimacy and become more deeply involved in God’s purpose for us as we begin to live life as it was meant to be lived, life as Jesus himself lived it. And the heart of the matter, as always, is the matter of the heart. So Jesus asks four questions in the verses before us this morning: *What are you longing for? What are you looking for? What are you living for?* And perhaps the most acute of all the diagnostic questions that reveal our spiritual health: *What are you afraid of?*

Body

- 1. What are you longing for (6:19-21)?**
- 2. What are you looking for (6:22-23)?**
- 3. What are you living for (6:24)?**
- 4. What are you afraid of (6:25-34)?**

Conclusion

Whose kingdom are we trying to build? Whose glory are we seeking? Truth be told, most of us come to the Lord to seek his help in pursuing our own selfish dreams, in accomplishing our own plans, in building our own little empires of dirt. But he invites us to be a part of something grand and glorious, part of the only thing that will last forever: His Kingdom. Seek it, he says, and he'll take care of all the rest. He knows our needs and loves us more than any one else ever could or ever will. Trust him with the treasure of your life, your hopes and fears, your dreams and longings.

And let him give you what is most precious of all: eternal life, loving intimacy with him and with those who know and love him, and a part to play in the healing of this broken cosmos. Then let him keep safe this most precious treasure, far from the ravages of time, of disease and death. Entrust it all to him, for "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (6:21).

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