



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

FAMILY DEVOS

Where's Your Treasure?

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-24

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:11

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.”

For My Family:

Did you know that the only thing you will take with you when you go to heaven is you? You can't take anything else with you! But people have been trying to do this for thousands of years. Wealthy Egyptians were buried in big tombs with lots of treasure. Mighty warriors throughout history have been buried with their wealth, weapons, and battle horses. People have even been buried in their favorite car! The Bible makes it clear that *“we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out”* (1 Timothy 6:7), but we can store up treasure in heaven now that we will receive in eternity.

This heavenly treasure is different from treasure on earth. Even after millions of years it won't rust. It can't be destroyed by moths or stolen by thieves. It is guarded by the King of kings. He keeps it for us and will one day hand it over to us as a reward. How do you receive these eternal rewards? By following and serving our King! By doing things to bring *Him* glory, not yourself. By loving your enemies, and serving others. Even giving someone a cup of cold water in Jesus' name will be rewarded (Mark 9:41). Remember, *“Your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly”* (Matthew 5:4, 6, 18).

Where you store up your treasure will depend on how you look at the world around you. Do you look for opportunities to use what you have to bring glory to God? Do you look out for the needs of others, or just yourself? When we decide to follow Jesus, He opens our eyes to see the world in a new light, but we can then choose to continue to look at the world selfishly. If our eye is good, our body is full of light, and we can be the light of the world, but if our eye is bad, our body is full of darkness. Jesus came to give us light. Let's keep our eyes fixed on Him!

Take note. Jesus isn't saying that it is bad to have earthly treasures and things. He wants to make sure those treasures don't have you! Everyone has a master. Jesus says some serve God and others serve money, but no one can serve two masters. If you love one you will hate the other. We see an example of this in the rich young ruler who came to Jesus and was asked to give what he had to the poor (Matthew 19:16-30). The young man loved his stuff more than God. He couldn't serve both. Money is a great servant, but it's a cruel master. Paul tells us that the *love* of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Where is your heart? We can do a lot of things for God by serving Him with our money. You can't take it with you to heaven, but you can use it to store up heavenly treasure that will last forever.

Questions for Young Children:

Can you take anything with you when you go to heaven?

How do we store up treasure in heaven?

How can you serve God this week?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Is it wrong to have earthly treasures? Why or why not?

Why does Jesus talk about our eye when speaking about treasure/money?

Think about who/what you serve. What do you love, and what do you hate? What are you loyal to, and what do you despise? The answers to these questions will show us the truth about who we serve.