



Sermon: From Fear to Faith

Text: *Matthew 6.19-34*

Preacher: *Dr. Herb Ward*

Introductory question -

The Old Testament takes an impartial view of earthly wealth. On the one hand, material riches are a blessing from God and a cause for thankfulness. On the other hand, people should not make wealth their chief goal, and they should always be aware that earthly wealth is transient.

1. Read Proverbs 23.4-5 for a graphic description of what happens to earthly wealth. What is the emphasis in this passage?
2. What are some ways that riches “fly off to the sky”?

In our culture, the concept of having only one master is hard to understand. A person today could have 2 jobs and several employers and still serve them well.

1. Read 1 Kings 18.16-39. What contrast did the people witness between Baal and the Lord, leading to their declaration in verse 39.

Reflection questions:

1. What, according to Jesus, are the most important things in life?
2. Why should we store up heavenly treasures rather than earthly ones (vv.19-21)? Does this mean that we cannot have personal property, savings accounts or insurance policies? Explain.
3. Practically speaking, how can we store up treasure in heaven?
4. How are physical and spiritual sight (or blindness) similar (vv.22-23)?
5. Many people hold two jobs and are able to satisfy two bosses. So why would Jesus say that it is impossible to serve two masters - God and Mammon (v.24)?
6. How will the crucial choices we make in verses 19-24 affect our ability to live free from worry (v.25)?
7. According to Jesus, why are we foolish to worry about our physical and material needs (vv.25-30)?
8. How does worry also reveal a lack of faith (v.30)?
9. If God promises to feed and cloth his children, then why are many of them ill-clad and undernourished (see Matthew 25.41-45)?
10. Give examples of how people today “run after all these things” that Jesus mentions (v.32).
11. Why are our ambitions to be different from those of non-Christians (vv.32-34)?
12. How has this passage challenged you to reexamine your goals and ambitions?