

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

Thermometer, Thermostat, and Temperature

TEXT: Mt. 6:19-33

INTRODUCTION – I have often heard it said that Jesus talked more about money, finances, and treasures than any other single topic. This week I decided that as a part of my own study of What Jesus said, then and now, I would see how much Jesus actually said about these things.

So I went through the four gospels and copied every passage of the words of Jesus that addressed financial matters and put a little summary statement for myself about the purpose of our Savior's words.

Here is what I found.

In the four gospels there are **1,854 “red letter verses” – Jesus is speaking**

In **1,513 of these verses – Jesus is teaching**

In my survey of the verses **79 passages related to money, finances, treasures**

In these 79 passages there were **417 verses.**

27% of the words of Jesus in the gospels are related to money, finances, treasures

Now all of that to say that any honest survey or study of What Jesus Said had to include some things that Jesus said about money, finances, and treasures. One of His classic commentaries is found in

Matthew 6:19–21 19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

I. THE LOCATION OF OUR TREASURES IS THE THERMOMETER THAT REVEALS OUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE.

- A. A thermometer reads the temperature of whatever surrounds it. The air on a frigid or blistering day, the water in the swimming pool, or the mouth of your sick child.
- B. We all have treasures.
 1. You may be saying, “Nope, Bro. Mike I am slap dab broke. I’ve got no treasures.”
 2. But we have all had treasures, almost every one of us this past month.

- It may have been a pay check (however small)
 - A Social Security check
 - A disability check
 - A gift
 - A loan
 - Whatever
3. But virtually all of us had some funds pass through our fingers going somewhere during February. Those were our treasures, great or small, few or many; they were our treasures.

C. Jesus points out that there are really **only two places where we can lay up treasures.**

1. **On earth**
2. **In heaven**

- In heaven by giving treasures to the work of the Kingdom of God.
- On earth by spending treasures on comforts for ourselves, saving our treasures to multiply the world things simply for ourselves, so that we can have the things of the world we want far beyond what we really need.

Folks, the picture Jesus is giving us here is not one that says we should give every dime that passes through our hands to the church, the poor, or some Christian cause.

Jesus is telling us to look inside at our own perspective and see how we use the treasures the Father allows to flow through our hands. Do we use them all for ourselves for this life upon the earth, or do we use a portion of them for the things God in heaven cares about and things that are going to matter in eternity?

And all of us are capable of making that kind of determination if we will just be honest. If we will look back over our last month's finances, or last 3 months, or last year, we can look at our own summary of expenditures and we can tell what we used for heavenly purposes and what went just for ourselves to enjoy for now the things of the earth.

And here is the point Jesus is making:

D. **How much of our treasure we are laying up in heaven verses how much we are laying up on earth gives us a reading on our spiritual temperature.**

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Jesus says, "Man don't deceive yourself. Don't tell yourself how much you love God and how devoted you are to Christ, how sold out you are to kingdom causes and then lay up all or almost all of the treasures God sends you on worldly comforts and pleasures for yourself."

Jesus said it's like sticking a thermometer in your soul.

Where you lay up your treasure tells you the spiritual temperature of your heart.

E. Worry is related to laying up treasures on earth.

Matthew 6:25–33 25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**When I worry
over what I have or do not have,
over what I want
and how I might be able to get it,**

then I am demonstrating a lack of trust in God and His provision.

**This lack of trust causes me to lay up treasures on the earth,
rather than laying up treasures in heaven.**

**II. THE LOCATION OF OUR TREASURES
IS A THERMOSTAT THAT DETERMINES
OUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE.**

A. Now you know the difference between a thermometer and a thermostat.

In my house, the thermometer says 65 degrees.
That is too cold inside the house for a man with no hair!

So I set the thermostat on 70 degrees, and the thermostat turns on the heater to change the temperature of the house from 65 to 70.

B. Jesus said that

**Where we lay up our treasures,
whether on earth or in heaven,
not only reveals our spiritual temperature,
but actually determines it.**

- Send a kid to college and you are all of a sudden much more interested in that school.
- You care what kind of education it gives.
- You care about the quality and integrity of the professors.
- You care about the efficiency and honesty of the administration.
- You may even start to care about their football team.

Why?

Because some of your treasure has gone there.

- The treasure of your child
- The treasure of your money as well

C. This truth is a source of genuine help for those who are not satisfied with the spiritual temperature of their heart.

- Does your heart not burn with the passion for God like it once did?
- Is your life not as aflame for the Lord as you want it to be?
- Jesus is telling you how to fix that.
- Your soul does not have to be chilled or frigid.
- It can be hot!
- It can be on fire!

Jesus says, “Just invest more of your treasures in the things of heaven, and your heart will start caring more about heavenly things.”

People who love their church the most

are the people most invested in the church.

- **With their treasures**
- **With their time**
- **With their talents**
- **With their energy**

They have laid up treasures in the heavenly work of the church and their heart went there also.

One of the sad things that has developed in some churches that has been to their devastation has been a **consumer mentality among the membership.**

- **Church becomes about what I like?**
- **Am I comfortable?**
- **Am I happy?**

And when the desire is treasure on earth, the heart grows cold and indifferent.

D. Let me take you back to what Jesus said about worry.

Matthew 6:31–32 31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

And I told you,

**When I worry
over what I have or do not have,
over what I want
and how I might be able to get it,
then I am demonstrating a lack of trust in God and His provision.**

**This lack of trust causes me to lay up treasures on the earth,
rather than laying up treasures in heaven.**

So what is the solution?

The fact that I worry let’s me see the problem. It puts a magnifying glass on the thermometer that tells me that as my treasures are on the earth so also is my heart.

But **how do I fix it?**

Jesus said,

Matthew 6:33 **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

Jesus said, “Get your focus off of yourself, what you want and would like to have, and worrying about how in the world you’re going to get the things of the world, and put your focus on

- **The Kingdom of God**
- **The righteous things of God**
- **The treasures of heaven**

CONCLUSION: Friend listen. If your spiritual temperature is cooler than you want it to be,

It is not a matter of changing your feelings or your temperament. Feelings are the caboose of the train. You don’t pull the train with the caboose. You pull the train with engine. The engine is faith. Faith will take the train of your life to a new location, and when it does, the feelings of the caboose will go along as well, they just get there later.

But you act in faith this morning. You just believe this word that Jesus is speaking.

You decide “I will put the Kingdom of God first.”

“I will lay up treasure in heaven.”

You start doing that,

- your spiritual temperature will begin to rise.
- You will develop a greater affection for the things of God.
- You will like church better.
- You will feel better about the mission of the church.
- All these things will be added unto you!

You decide “I will put the Kingdom of God first.”

“I will lay up treasure in heaven.”