

BibleSanity.org – Remote Bible Study

The Sermons, Parables, and Teachings of Jesus Christ

Session 12 – The Sermon on the Mount, Part Seven, November 1, 2022

Seeking Spiritual Things

In Matthew 6:19-34, Jesus addresses seeking the things of God, versus seeking our material wants and needs. He first speaks to the desires of our hearts in Matthew 6:19-24, and afterwards addresses our worries for things God knows that we need.

Matthew 6:19-24

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Major principles:

1. Things of Earth are temporary, whereas things of Heaven are eternal.
2. Our heart is where our treasure is
3. Love for worldly things will darken our vision for spiritual things
4. We cannot strive for both heavenly and material accomplishment

Compares well with John 15:1-8 – Abiding in Christ as the branch abides in the vine, as necessary to produce fruit.

John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

If we're not laying treasures up for ourselves in heaven, we are also not bearing much fruit, conversely, if we abide in Christ, with our eyes set on heavenly things, we are both fruitful vines and laying up treasures in heaven.

The second part of this dialogue in Matthew (6:25-34) focuses in trusting God for the material things we need, as we strive for spiritual things.

Matthew 6:25-34

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

“Therefore” – the passage starts with a declaration of context. BECAUSE we cannot serve God and material gains, THEN we should trust God to provide our needs. If we’re working for God, we can trust God with the wages we need to live.

Consider Colossians 3:23-24 and John 10:10

Colossians 3:23-24

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

John 10:10b

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Major principles:

1. God will take care of us!
2. We cannot take care of ourselves
3. We should trust God, to care for us and bless us, rather than worry/fear

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.