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Intro

Woman (Birtha Adams) dies due to malnutrition. Her home was a pig pen, complete disarray. From all appearances she was a penniless, forgotten widow. Turns out she actually had security deposit boxes worth millions.

This is a picture of our spiritual life when concerning money. We feel a balance between what the world says what we should have and what Scripture teaches us.

The law of the pharisees.

They were not religious professionals (like priests). They were religious layman with strict adherence to their religious laws.

They were wealthy, but this wasn't their reward for their righteousness. People can live a good life, and be wealthy.

Matthew 6:9

Matthew 6:19-24

v25 is related to vv19-24. Christ is saying: put your money in the right perspective!

There are 3 perspectives:

Single Treasure

Matthew 6:19-21 we are commanded to have a single treasure

One out of every 10 verses in the Gospel is devoted to something on stewardship.

What we do with the things we own matter, they are a gift from God and He made us stewards over them.

“Lay up” thesaurizo

“treasure” thesauros

Christ is saying “do not treasure up treasures for yourself”

The idea is of stock piling or hoarding! Do not let your wealth go unused!

To many people find their identity in what they own or what they possess.

It's not: “Who wants to be a millionaire?” The right question: “What would you be willing to do to be a millionaire?”

Our Lord is NOT saying to own nothing.

Proverbs 6:6 1 Corinthians 14

the commandment “Do not steal” implies someone is storing something!

Luke 12:15

Often we think “who we are” is often wrapped up in our possessions.

Luke 12:16

The flaw of this man was that he thought he could take shortcuts to life; he could store up wealth for himself and then not work. His money became his security.

The world would consider this man to be successful.

How people stored their money was by:

1. storing garments. Sometimes people would weave gold threads in their fabric to both keep and display their wealth.
2. storing grain. This was food security. “rust” : brosis : an eating
3. Exchanging assets for god. “break in” : diorusso : “dig through”

Christ is saying “don’t spend your life storing up wealth for yourself!”.

It’s not just wealth. It’s anything that satisfied by deep longings. We try to satisfy them in co-dependent ways.

Matthew 6:21 Where you put your money that’s where your treasure is found most.

Single Vision

Matthew 6:23

When our thoughts are filled with eternity, we will have a clear eye

“clear” haplous

can mean “single” as it is translated in King James

“Singleness of purpose is one great secret of spiritual prosperity.”

Single Master

Matthew 6:24

A 1st century slave served 24-7! Here Christ is saying, that you will be 100% devoted to either your wealth, or God.

“wealth” aramaic for mammon

with possessions with property (including money)

Money is a wonderful servant, but a terrible master.

Application

What occupies your thoughts when you have nothing else to do?

What do you fear or fret about the most?

What or whom do you most dread losing?

What are the things by which you measure others?

What is it that you feel like you cannot be happy without?