

The Teachings of Jesus

Choosing the Right Treasure

Matthew 6:19-24

Introduction

One of the most prominent gods of America is money. An appropriate question to ask in our culture would be, "Who do you serve? God or Mammon?"

1. "Mammon" refers to material _____.
2. According to scripture, the idea that you can serve God and obsess over material wealth is an _____.
3. Only one can be your true _____, and the one you choose shapes the course of your life.
4. Unless you consciously choose to serve God, you will serve the God of this world by _____.

I. Identify the Real Treasure

5. There's nothing _____ with being wealthy, having a good-paying job, or owning many material things.
6. Those who serve mammon put their faith in _____ and trust their future to this life.

7. Mammon makes a person a money _____ who amasses a lot of material possessions.
8. Mammon causes you to strive for things well beyond what you _____.
9. Mammon produces _____ that causes a constant desire for more.
10. Greed has destroyed our future _____.
11. Material wealth is not _____.
12. Even if you're fortunate to avoid loss in this life, you will certainly have to give it all up when you _____ this life.

II. Invest in the Real Treasure

13. Jesus says to "lay up for yourself treasure in _____."
14. This is what Jesus called becoming " _____ toward God" in Luke 12:21.
15. We become rich toward God by developing godly _____.
16. We also become rich toward God by reaching out to other people as a _____ of God's kingdom.

17. Being "rich in good works" involves sharing your faith and freedom in Christ with _____ and teaching them God's ways.
18. It involves being generous and sharing some of your financial _____ to alleviate the bondage and human need and advance the message of God's love and relationship.
19. No one can take what you _____ in God's kingdom from you.

III. Inspect the Treasure

20. Even though it is a small organ, the _____ is the key to functioning smoothly.
21. The treasure you seek will significantly _____ your life.
22. The treasure you _____ greatly determines the type of life you live in this life as well as your ultimate wealth in the next life.
23. You don't even need to believe in the Bible to realize that the end result of materialism delivers just the opposite _____ of the expectation!
24. People in our culture have an abundance of material possessions, yet they are _____ inside.
25. Jesus says you can develop a "good eye" by serving God and pursuing _____ wealth.

26. If you do, you won't avoid suffering, but your life will definitely become more _____.

Conclusion

Only you can choose what you treasure most! Jesus says to each of us: "Choose the right treasure – Choose a life that leads to eternal joy!

Answers

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| 1. wealth | 14. rich |
| 2. illusion | 15. character |
| 3. master | 16. representative |
| 4. default | 17. others |
| 5. wrong | 18. resources |
| 6. themselves | 19. invest |
| 7. hoarder | 20. eye |
| 8. need | 21. influence |
| 9. greed | 22. pursue |
| 10. posterity | 23. result |
| 11. permanent | 24. empty |
| 12. leave | 25. spiritual |
| 13. heaven | 26. fulfilling |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. In what ways have you been caught up in chasing the American Dream? How does God want you to view money?
2. What can you do to use the material resources (time/talent/money) you've been given for God's glory and not for your own comfort?
- 3.
4. What do you do with your spare time? How much time do you spend with your family, ministry, and spiritual growth? Versus time spent on work, TV, shopping, hobbies, etc.?