

Open Your Heart and Mind

- What are your fourth of July traditions?

Finding God in His Word (Read Matthew 6:19-24)

- For many, this is a very familiar passage. As you read it again now, what do you find to be the most challenging thing Jesus says in this passage?
- Why does Jesus contrast treasures in heaven with treasures on Earth? Why are we drawn more to earthly treasures than heavenly treasures?
- How would you define what earthly and heavenly treasures are? Why are Christians called to store up heavenly treasures rather than earthly treasures?
- Where is the balance in this as a disciple and follower of Jesus? How do we balance providing for ourselves/ our families but not being over taken by gaining for ourselves? When is enough, enough?
- Did you gain any new insight into Jesus' illustration of the healthy and bad eye? From Pastor Malcolm's explanation, how does this illustration connect to the idea of storing treasures in heaven rather than on earth?
- Why should Christians not be jealous or envious of other people's wealth or material resources? What can happen if this becomes a focus in our lives?
- Jesus draws His teaching to a single point, there can be only one master in our lives; God or money. Why can we not serve both? How do we try to serve both? When we try to serve both, which have you observed typically wins? Why?

Live the Christ Life

1. Looking at practical application of this passage, as a Christian, how are you able to use your material resources for the Kingdom of God?
2. How do you develop and maintain financial priorities with God's kingdom in mind? As you assess those priorities where does God's kingdom rank in your material resources? How do you make the decision for how you will use your material resource for God's purposes?
3. How do balance giving to your church, with giving to other para-church ministries? Which has priority? Why? What obligation does a Christian have to use their wealth for God's purposes?
4. It's not spoken about in this passage but it does relate, how does debt and being in debt, add to our being mastered by money and/or hinder our being able to store up treasures in heaven?
5. Are there steps you are needing to take to change your financial habits to abandon your own Kingdom and use your material resources for God's kingdom? In what ways is this passage bringing you challenge or conviction?