

Too Comfortable? Week 9

Sermon date 3/26/2017

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

The Goal

Over the last two weeks we have unpacked God's design for our treasure. The first week we were challenged to think differently about our treasure than the world would have us think about it. Last week we looked at treasure as a tool for living a fulfilled life at the side of Christ. This week we will be unpacking Matthew 6:19-23.

MY STORY

- 2) What theme or idea has God been speaking to you about personally throughout this study?
- 3) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 4) From last week's study, did you do something different with your treasure?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 6:19-23

¹⁹ "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.¹

From The Bible Exposition Commentary

Materialism will enslave the heart (Matt. 6:19–21), the mind (Matt. 6:22–23), and the will (Matt. 6:24). We can become shackled by the material things of life, but we ought to be liberated and controlled by the Spirit of God.

If the heart loves material things, and puts earthly gain above heavenly investments, then the result can only be a tragic loss. The treasures of earth may be used for God. But if we gather material things for ourselves, we will lose them; *and we will lose our hearts with them*. Instead of spiritual enrichment, we will experience impoverishment.

What does it mean to lay up treasures in heaven? It means to use *all that we have* for the glory of God. It means to “hang loose” when it comes to the material things of life. It also means measuring life by the true riches of the kingdom and not by the false riches of this world. Wealth not only enslaves the heart, but it also enslaves the mind (Matt. 6:22–23). God’s Word often uses the eye to represent the attitudes of the mind. If the eye is properly focused on the light, the body can function properly in its movements. But if the eye is out of focus and seeing double, it results in unsteady movements. It is most difficult to make progress while trying to look in two directions at the same time.ⁱⁱ

- 5) What reason does Jesus give us to not store our treasure here on earth?
- 6) From verse 21 what does it mean to have our heart attached to our treasure?
- 7) Have you ever rearranged your life for something you treasured, and how would our lives change if we rearranged our lives to have treasure in Heaven?

TAKING IT HOME

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town.² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich.³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.⁷ But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

⁹ Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”ⁱ

A note on Zacchaeus from The Apologetics Study Bible

Salvation didn't come to Zacchaeus because of his works. Rather, his encounter with Jesus and subsequent change of heart were exhibited by his actions (19:8). Although we are not told of his faith in Jesus as the Christ, presumably Zacchaeus's positive response to Jesus indicates as much. Though the crowd thought Zacchaeus had forfeited access to God's favor because of his greed, Jesus declared he was as much a child of Abraham as they were. ⁱⁱⁱ

- 8) What does Zacchaeus's response to Jesus imply about how he had been living prior to meeting Jesus?
- 9) What changed about how Zacchaeus viewed his treasure?
- 10) Have you ever had an experience where your whole view changed, if so will you share it with the group?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

We have arrived at the end of this study and it has been a great journey for many. This week we encourage you to do two things; first, allow God to speak to you about areas you have been challenged with during the Too Comfortable series. And ask the following question; What can I do in response to his challenge?

Second, we have worked for eight weeks to write our life's mission statement. If you have followed along we are at the final week, the goal this week is to condense our values to one guiding statement as a mission statement for our lives. I have shared my personal values and here is the mission statement God has put into my heart over these weeks.

- I am here to be available to help people know and follow Jesus whenever and wherever I go.

I know it sounds simple but I desperately want people to know the Jesus I have come to know over the years of walking with him. I want to be approachable to unbelievers and show the kindness and love Jesus showed to outcasts and the marginalized. I am by no means perfect at this endeavor but it is the goal of my life. It is my hope and my treasure. Thanks for walking with me through this journey.

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Lk 19:1–10.

ⁱⁱ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 27–28.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ted Cabal et al., *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 1551.