

Treasures Upon Earth and Treasures In Heaven

Matthew 6:19-23: *“¹⁹Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ²²The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. ²³But 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!”*

I. Verse 20—“Treasures in Heaven”

- A. When you read about treasures in Heaven, what do you imagine that to be? What are the treasures in Heaven?
 1. Some might say, “Gold. I will have gold in Heaven. That will be a treasure.”
 2. Gold in Heaven is described in **Revelation 21:21**.
 - a. The verse says, “*And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*”
 - b. If the street will be gold, that means that the street will be paved with gold. Gold will be as common as the pavement of the streets.
 - c. So, pavement does not sound like a treasure.
- B. We know that we shall receive crowns as stated in the following verses:
 1. **2 Timothy 4:8**—“*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*”
 2. **James 1:12**—“*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*”
 3. **1 Peter 5:4**—“*And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*”
 4. We can see people wearing crowns in Heaven in **Revelation 4:4**.
 - a. The verse says, “*And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*”
 5. The question is, “Are those crowns of gold the treasures in Heaven” spoken about in **Matthew 6:20**?
 6. Notice the next scene of those people found in **Revelation 4:10**.
 - a. **Revelation 4:10** says, “*The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne.*”
 - b. We see those people wearing those crowns of gold and taking off their crowns and casting them in worship before the throne of the Lord Jesus.
 - c. The question is, “Did anyone think that those crowns are the treasures that were laid up in Heaven?”
 - d. Did anyone say, “Hey, that crown is my treasure in Heaven. I better go get my treasure back.”
- C. It does not look like gold or crowns are the treasure in Heaven. What are the treasures in Heaven that is referred to in **Matthew 6:20**?
- D. The Lord in **Matthew 6** has been talking about treasures on earth, and He has said to not lay up treasures on earth. He has said that we are to lay up treasures in Heaven.

- E. We can see what He meant when we consider the tribe of priests—the Levites.
1. As a matter of fact, even though there were twelve tribes in Israel and only one tribe of priests, the Levites, God called all of Israel to see themselves as priests in **Exodus 19:6**.
 - a. **Exodus 19:6** says, *“And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”*
 2. God did not see the Levites as “Oh, they are the priests” or “They are the only priests in Israel.” God wanted all true believers in Israel to see themselves as priests as He said in **Isaiah 66:21**.
 - a. **Isaiah 66:21** says, *“And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.”*
 3. That is true of us as believers. Out of all of the twelve tribes in Israel, we as followers are told that we are to see ourselves as part of the tribe of priests.
 - a. **1 Peter 2:9** says, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”*
 4. This is how all believers are seen in the following verses:
 - a. **Revelation 1:6**—*“And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*
 - b. **Revelation 5:10**—*“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests.”*
 - c. **Revelation 20:6**—*“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”*
 5. Over and over again, believers are called priests.
- F. So, we are to see ourselves as part of the priest tribe of Levi.
1. We are to see ourselves as Levites when it came time for the tribes to receive their treasure on earth which was “Their inheritance of land” in Israel.
 2. When Joshua entered into the land, he gave a parcel of land to each tribe. That was their treasure on earth. When it came to the Levites, Joshua gave them the land described in chapter 13, verse 33.
 - a. **Joshua 13:33** says, *“But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not any inheritance.”*
- G. And we can imagine the tribe of Levite standing there with all the other tribes, waiting for their treasure on earth; their inheritance. Joshua comes and finally says to them, “You get no land in the land of Israel. You get no inheritance in the land of Israel. You get no treasure in the land of Israel.”
1. We can imagine Levi saying, “That is not fair to leave us out when it came to land, an inheritance, a treasure on earth.”
- H. Of all the tribes in Israel, we are to identify with the tribe of Levi in Israel as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are the kingdom of priests. We are the Levites.
1. It was just like how David felt when he looked at the prosperity of the wicked in the following verses:
 - a. **Psalms 73:3**—*“For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”*
 - b. **Psalms 73:12**—*“Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.”*
 - c. **Psalms 73:14**—*“For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.”*
- I. The Levites are asking Joshua, “Where is our inheritance? Where is our treasure?”

1. Joshua says, “The Levites have not been left out. There is a treasure for you. There is an inheritance for you. It is just not an inheritance on earth. It is just not a treasure on earth. You actually have the best inheritance of all the tribes. Your inheritance is the LORD God of Israel.”
- J. While all the other tribes got their land on earth, the Levites got a treasure better than all the other tribes. The Levites got their treasure in Heaven which was, “The Lord God of Israel.”
 1. They got the greatest treasure—the Lord Himself.
- K. As part of the tribe of Levites, we are to look at the Lord and say, “Let the other tribes receive their treasure on earth. With the Lord Jesus Christ as my inheritance, I have a better treasure in Heaven.”
 1. **Colossians 2:9-10** says, “*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*”
 2. With the Lord Jesus Christ, we are complete and have everything.
 3. We have the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have everything. We are complete in Him.
 4. That is why the Lord Himself is the better inheritance that the Levites received.
 - a. Because while all the other tribes with their lands received their treasure on earth, the tribe of Levi with their treasure of the Lord Himself got their treasure in Heaven.
 5. We are the Levites, and this is **our** treasure in Heaven. The treasure of **the Lord Himself—the Lord Jesus Christ—is our treasure** in Heaven.
- L. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, and as we focus our gaze on Him, we find “*the light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light*” (**Matthew 6:22**).
 1. As we give our hearts to God, He focuses our eye on the Lord Jesus Christ who showed us all the ways of God.
 - a. **Proverbs 23:26** says, “*My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*”
 2. As we focus our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ, we think of Him. As we think of Him, we become like Him because of what **Proverbs 23:7** says.
 - a. **Proverbs 23:7** says, “*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.*”
 3. All that is described about Him can be found in **Philippians 4:8**.
 - a. **Philippians 4:8** states, “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*”
- M. The Lord Jesus Christ should be our **First Thought** of the day.
 1. **Psalms 5:3**—“*My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*”
- N. The Lord Jesus Christ should be our **Fixed Thought** throughout the day.
 1. **Psalms 57:7**—“*My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.*”
 2. **Isaiah 26:3**—“*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*”
- O. The Lord Jesus Christ should be our **Frequent Thought** throughout the day.
 1. **Psalms 119:164**—“*Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.*”

2. **Psalm 55:16-17**—*“¹⁶As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.¹⁷ Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.”*
- P. The Lord Jesus Christ should be our **Familiar Thought** throughout the day.
1. Familiar has the meaning of friendly with the idea that God is our Friend. Thoughts about God are friends to us.
 2. **Exodus 33:11**—*“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.”*
 3. **2 Chronicles 20:7**—*“Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?”*
- Q. So, the Lord Jesus is set as our treasure in Heaven against our treasure on earth. The Lord in Matthew 6 is giving us advice to not make treasures on earth, but instead to make treasures in Heaven. Here are reasons:
1. Treasures on earth are temporary; treasures in Heaven are eternal.
 2. Treasures on earth are vulnerable to loss and decay; treasures in Heaven are not.
 - a. **Proverbs 23:5**—*“Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.”*
 3. Treasures on earth promise happiness and do not deliver and are frustrating; treasures in Heaven promise delight, and they do deliver and are fulfilling.
 - a. **Psalm 16:11**—*“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”*
 4. Treasures on earth promise completion and do not; but, our treasure in Heaven, who is the Lord Jesus Christ, makes us complete.
 - a. **Colossians 2:9-10**—*“⁹For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”*
- R. So, when we look at verses 19 and 20 with the words *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth”* and *“Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven,”* we can see how treasures on earth compete with our treasure in Heaven.
1. That will lead to us look at treasures on earth with a sort of contempt as we see them as trying to take our gaze off of our treasure in Heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ.