

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# The Three Most Important Questions in Your Life

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Matthew 6:19-24

**1 Those that have experienced the Great Depression, the Builders Generation, will save and dream about the good life. They expected to live the good life when they retired.**

**Those born after World War II, the Boomers, were the “I want it all now” generation. Easy credit could usually get them that dream. But everything you accumulate in this life is only temporary. Modern advertising tempts us to get caught up in the “Get it now” attitude.**

**In order to evaluate what’s really important and permanent, you might ask yourself three questions. Where is your treasure? Where is your body? And who is your master?**

**These questions are answered in the following scripture passage from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, verses 19 through 24. 2**

**Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break**

in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>1</sup> 3

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. <sup>2</sup> 4

**So, the first question is . . .**

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<sup>1</sup> v19-21.

<sup>2</sup> v22-24.

## **I. Where is Your Treasure? – v19-21**

**Where is your treasure? <sup>5</sup> Is your treasure only on earth? <sup>6</sup>**

**I used to have a safety deposit box at the local bank. I had a key to that box. But the only way I could access it was to sign in, have a bank employee accompany me to the box, stick my key in the box lock and have the banker stick his key into the lock. Once unlocked I could only take the box to a secured area to rummage through it. When I was ready, I would notify the bank teller. Together we would reverse the procedure to lock the box back into its container. Pretty safe, right? Not really. A skilled bank robber could access those safety deposit boxes quite easily. <sup>7</sup>**

**Possessions were not even that safe in ancient times. <sup>8</sup> In verse 19, the phrase “break in” <sup>3</sup> literally means to dig through. Most houses back then were made of clay similar to adobe. If you went on a trip someone**

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<sup>3</sup> Διορύσσω.

could simply take a shovel and begin digging through your wall to take anything of value. When Lord Jesus was preaching one day four men took their paralyzed friend to the roof, chiseled through the ceiling and lowered him onto the floor. <sup>4</sup> 9

Lord Jesus told the story of a man who had an especially good crop one year and had to build bigger barns to store it at harvest time <sup>5</sup>. He began to brag that his crop was so large he could just sit back for several years and not have to work. He could just enjoy life. But the Lord told him that he was going to die that night. Verse 20 and 21 continue, **Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself.** <sup>10</sup> **This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.** You need to include God in the picture! <sup>11</sup> **But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,** First Peter, chapter 3, verse 10 says, **The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it**

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<sup>4</sup> Mark 2:1-12.

<sup>5</sup> Luke 12:16-21.

**will be laid bare.** There is more to life than just the accumulation of stuff on earth. <sup>12</sup>

Where is your treasure? Is it in heaven? How do you accumulate treasure there? <sup>13</sup>

Lord Jesus conversation with a man gives an answer to this. <sup>6</sup> The man asked, “What good thing must I do to get eternal life?” The Lord’s answer was to obey God! When pressed for a more definite answer the Lord continued, **If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.** <sup>7</sup> That was just too much to ask of this wealthy man.

So how do you accumulate treasure? <sup>14</sup> On earth you get it by getting possessions and focusing on yourself. <sup>15</sup> In heaven you get it by getting possessions, giving them to those in need and focusing on Jesus!

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 19:16-22.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 19:21.

To nail this concept home, the Lord said that when He returns as King and sits on the throne of glory all the people will stand before Him, and He will divide them into two groups. To one group He will say, **Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.** <sup>8</sup> Those in this group will be surprised and respond, **Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’** “The King will reply, **‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.** <sup>9</sup> <sup>16</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew 25:34-36.

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 25:37-40.

The way to accumulate heavenly treasure is to give your possessions away to those in need. Verse 21 of our text today states, **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also!** <sup>17</sup>

Now for the second most important question in your life . . .

## II. Where is Your Body? – v22-23

Where is your body? <sup>18</sup> Verse 23 <sup>10</sup> of our text asks “Is it in darkness?” <sup>19</sup>

John, chapter 3, verses 19 through 21 says, **This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.** <sup>20</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Matthew 6: 21 - But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!



Real darkness is separation from our Lord's presence!  
21 Isaiah, chapter 42, verse 6, I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles. 22 Lord Jesus said, **I am the light of the world.** 11 23 Again, the Lord states in John. Chapter 8, verse 12, Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. When the Lord told the story about the unwelcomed guest at the wedding banquet, that person was thrown out into the darkness. 12 In His parable about the Talents, the worthless servant was thrown into the darkness. 13 24 In both of these stories, if you are not connected with the Lord, you are in darkness where there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth". 25

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11 John 9:5.

12 Matthew 22:11-13.

13 Matthew 25:14-30.

Verse 22 of our text asks, “Is it in the light?”<sup>14</sup> Lord Jesus says that it’s in the light where God is.<sup>26</sup> Matthew, chapter 5, verses 14 and 16, **You are the light of the world . . . let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.** If you are in the light, you need to make it known!

The third most important question in your life is . . .<sup>27</sup>

### III. Who is Your Master? – v24

Who is your master?<sup>28</sup> Is it money? Verse 24 reads, **No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.**<sup>29</sup> The word “money” here, or “mammon”,<sup>15</sup> is an Aramaic word (the language Jesus actually spoke) which means “the love of riches and material things”. Both the rich and the poor can

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<sup>14</sup> Matthew 6:22 - The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.

<sup>15</sup> μαμωνᾶς.

be guilty of this. It's an attitude of the heart! <sup>30</sup> This verse is literally translated, **No one has the ability or power to be a servant to two authorities. He will hate & think little of the one but cling on to & give sacrificially & unconditionally to the other.** <sup>31</sup>

God's word warns against loving money and possessions! James, chapter 4, verse 4, **You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.** <sup>32</sup> Again in First John, chapter 2, verse 15, **Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** <sup>33</sup>

There are consequences of focusing just on materialism. In the Lord's story about the rich man and Lazarus the beggar, <sup>16</sup> it was the rich man who focused on himself and ignored the needs of the beggar who was in eternal torment looking across the gulf at Lazarus snuggled in the bosom of Abraham. <sup>34</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Luke 16:19-31.

**In the Book of Acts <sup>17</sup> Ananias and Sapphira were so focused on their greed that it tempted them to lie to the Holy Spirit. They suffered death because of it! <sup>35</sup>**

**Judas betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave, because of his greed. <sup>18</sup> If your focus in life is money and material possessions, you are making the wrong choice! <sup>36</sup>**

**Is your master money or God? <sup>37</sup> Romans, chapter 6, verses 20 through 23, **When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>38</sup> Freedom from sin means service to God. But service to God means real life! <sup>39</sup>****

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<sup>17</sup> Acts 5:1-11.

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 26:47-49.

**Accumulate your treasure in heaven; keep your body in the light and focus your life on God as your master. Remember what Jim Elliot, the great missionary to Ecuador, said, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose!”**

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