# THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE

## Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

## Session XXXIV

## "A Kingdom Value System"

### I. Introduction

#### A. Life in the Real World

1. The first 18 verses of Matthew 6 deal with the *spiritual* dimension of the Christian life; Jesus talks about the *private* side of the normal Christian life

- He speaks about spiritual things like giving, about prayer, and about fasting
- He warns us to not do our religion to be seen of men, but to be seen by God

2. But we don't live the Christian life in the prayer closet! We live in a very real world!

- A world that is full of trouble, worry and fear
- A world system that seeks to suck us into itself

**"One of the most subtle problems the Christian must deal with is his relationship to the world. You pray and fast and give alms unobserved. But you also have to live your life in the world. That world will do its best to get you down, it will do its utmost to ruin your spiritual life. So you have to be very wary."**
**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

3. In the rest of chapter 6, Jesus moves on from subjects like prayer, fasting and giving to how we are to live in this world, a world that will test our value system where we will put our priorities. He begins in v.19:

**Matthew 6:19-21**

**19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."**

## II. A Kingdom Value System

### A. Show Me The Money?

1. Our first thought is that Jesus is talking about money; but He has more in mind than money, because He uses the term *"treasures"*.

a. **"Treasure" is from the Greek word thesauros (thay-sow-ros'); which means "wealth", (literally or figuratively).**

2. It *can* mean "money"; but it's bigger than that. The Lord is really referring to what philosophers call our "value system".

**a. 3. We all decide what to do and how to live according to our "value system", which is how we measure the degree of importance we place upon some thing or some action. Our value system determines what we will do and how we will live.**

b. I value money. But when my car is running on empty, I value gasoline more than money, so I trade money for gas.

3. Jesus says to value treasure in heaven more than treasure on earth.

**"Our treasure may not be money. It may be husband, wife or children; it may be some gift we have. No matter what it is, or how small it is, if it is everything to you, that is <u>your treasure</u>, <u>the thing you are living for</u>. This is the danger our Lord warns of here."**

**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

4. Notice: He says "our treasure is the thing we live for"! What do we value most?

- I have seen people value keeping their money in the bank more than they value paying their tithes
- There are some who value their children's entertainments more than they do faithful attendance to the House of God
- And many prefer the applause of men over the approval of God!

**"Some cannot be tempted by money, but they can be tempted by status and position. Promotion has done endless harm in the Church of God to men who have been quite honest and sincere, but who have not been on guard against this danger.**
**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

a. How many good men have fallen in love with a title?

**Many a preacher has been ruined by his congregation."**
**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

5. There are 2 perils for Pastors:

- We can fall in love with the praise of the people and slip into pride
- Or worse, we can be put so much value on pleasing the people that we end up watering down the Word of God

a. Today we live in a world where the watchword is "political correctness"; being careful not to offend anyone. But if pastors and preachers value popularity over principle to the point that we dare not offend anyone, we ruin our witness. As one said…

"The church has become so worldly

and the world has become so churchy, you can no longer tell the difference"!

b. Alan Hirsch is an Australian, a Messianic Jew and leading church missiologist…

**"Unless the church is willing to embrace the values and vision of the Kingdom of God and turn away from materialism, consumerism, greed, and the power of the present age, it not only abandons its Biblical mandate, is rendered missionally ineffective."**
**Alan Hirsch**

- Materialism-the world is all about money
- Consumerism-the world is all about acquiring more things
- Jesus is warning us about the powerful pull of the world system…

6. But the believer's treasure is in heaven; and if we become like the world, we can never win the world! Besides all that, there are…

**B. Rational Reasons for the Right Values**

1. It just makes sense!

**Treasure on earth is temporary; and it is subject to corruption and theft**
**Treasure in heaven is eternal, guarded by God, and can never be lost!**

2. Earthly treasures don't last; they can be gone, overnight, at any time!

a**. I prepared this message during the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, the costliest natural disaster in U.S. History, with 100's of 1000's of homes underwater and damages that may approach $200 billion!**

- Testimony: Elizabeth and I are from the Gulf Coast; we are familiar with this; when I was a junior in high school, my family lost everything in

Hurricane Carla; our house, our car, our furniture—all gone. You can never know what it feels like if you haven't been through it

- A month ago, people were working every day to make their house payments; some just spent a lot of money on remodeling; but now it's all gone
- On top of that, I read a report that even the homes that were spared have now lost 40% of its resale value because of the storm. You thought your home was worth $200,000? Today you could only sell it for $120,000!

b. Most of the people who lost their homes did not buy flood insurance because it's so expensive and the risk seemed small. But Jesus says to remember that all our earthly treasures are at risk from moth and rust. We could lose everything we have at any time!

3. Hurricane Harvey ought to make us all think about our own personal value system; to see here in this section of the sermon Jesus is raising 3 questions:

**Where is your heart?**
**How is your eyesight?**
**Whom are you serving?**

**III. 3 Checkpoints of Our Values System**

**A. Where is Your Heart?**

1. Our value system is where we lay up our treasure…

**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**
**Matthew 6:21**

**2.** Years ago I heard a sermon where the preacher challenged us to do a "heart exam"; if you want to know where your heart is, look at your checkbook. What do you spend your money on? Look at your calendar: Where do you spend your time?

3. 2 choices: treasure in heaven or treasure on earth. Where is your heart?

**B. How is Your Eyesight?**

1. The 2nd checkpoint has to do with how we see life in this world…

**Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. 23 But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!**
**Matthew 6:22-23 NLT**

2. Good eye or "evil" eye? Where is our affection? What is our goal?

**"The eye refers to our aims and intentions, the end we set before us, the mark we shoot at; with that in view, we direct our motion."**
**Matthew Henry**

3. Then Jesus gives us a serious warning in v.23…

**…if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!**
**Matthew 6:23**

a. The ultimate deception is to mistake the light for the darkness!

b. I have seen too many leave God's church to pursue a "new revelation" and end up shipwrecking their faith.

c. Too many pastors that used to believe the Bible have now caved in to the cultural pressure to say "Gay is OK"; they think they have found new light but instead are plunging themselves and their congregations into deeper darkness. And how great is that darkness?

**C. Whom are You Serving?**

1. My favorite Bob Dylan song: "You Gotta Serve Somebody".

**"It may be the devil, or it may be the Lord, but you gotta serve somebody".**

**No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**
**Matthew 6:24 NASB**

2. This message is about the value system of the Kingdom, where there are always 2 choices!

- Is your heart on treasure in heaven or treasure on earth?
- Do you have a good eye or an "evil" eye?
- And which master will you serve? God or mammon (wealth, money)?

**This last step is the most solemn and serious of all. We must remember that the way in which we look at these things ultimately determines our relationship to God. `No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Both make a *totalitarian demand* upon us.**
**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

3. "Totalitarian demand" means that we must choose one or the other. It cannot be both!

**"God and Mammon are both totalitarian. Both demand our entire allegiance, and therefore they cannot be mixed. We cannot love two opposite things at the same time. Love is exclusive; it is demanding, and always insists upon the absolute."**
**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

4. A Kingdom value system is black and white; one or the other; treasure in heaven or earth/single eye or evil eye/serve God or serve Mammon…God allows no mixture!

**"Is it not the trouble with the Church that for many a day she has been trying to mix certain incompatibles?**
**"It is this constant compromising promising in the life of the Church that has been her ruination ever since the days of Constantine. Once you have lost the division between the world and the Church, the Church ceases to be truly Christian."**
**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

**D. Conclusion: The Sermon on the Mount is the Normal Christian Life**

1. From the Beatitudes onward, the Christian is different from the world! Not only in our character, but also in our value system.

2. Any honest reading of the Sermon on the Mount determines if we are Christian or not.

3. Thomas Linacre was a brilliant man who was the personal physician of England's King Henry VIII. He was converted to Christ at middle age and though he had read hundreds of books, had never read the Bible. When he read the Gospels, he was astonished at the difference between what he read in the Bible and the condition of the Church. He said…

**"Either these are not the Gospels, or we are not Christians".**
**Thomas Linacre**

4. God help us be true to our calling!

ALTAR CALL

**Mark 8:33-38**
**33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou (are not mindful) of the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.**

**34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**
**35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.**
**36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**
**37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**
**38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**