



Sermons of the Savior

Matthew 6:19-34

Lesson 13

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth; Do not worry about your life; Do not worry about tomorrow. Each of these are topics covered by Jesus in Matthew 6:19-34. With these exhortations we have some glorious promises: *your treasures in heaven will not rust; your heavenly Father feeds, clothes, and provides.* Therefore, in light of these exhortations and promises, what will be your response?

OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 6:19-34

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.
Key Words: words that refer to *God, the Father, treasure(s), worry(ing), light, darkness,* and the phrase *do not*.
3. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used five times in these verses. Mark the word as a key word. Choose one and record what the conclusion was based upon.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used three times in these verses. Choose one and record what is being contrasted.
5. In this portion of Matthew 6, Jesus warns His followers four times with the words *do not*. Make a list of what we are *not* to do.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. If you were stranded on a desert island and could have only three possessions with you, what would you choose and why?
2. What are some things you would find difficult to release and why?
3. What are your top three worries?

LAYING UP TREASURES: Read Matthew 6:19-21

1. Jesus began this portion of His sermon with the warning *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth*. What does He say can eventually happen to our *earthly treasures*?
 - a. We can prevent these things from happening to our *treasures*. However, what do we know about the “lasting quality” of all of our possessions?
2. In your own words, describe what it means to *lay up for yourselves treasures on earth*?
 - a. What do you think is the significance of the word *yourselves* in this phrase?
3. Most of us have lost things that are valuable to us. What do you say to yourself that helps you to put things into perspective?
4. Consider the words of Job in Job 31:24-28. How can making these things *our hope* be *denying God*?
5. Jesus is not calling us to ignore our *earthly treasures*. Rather, what is He calling us to do with them?
 - a. In your own words, describe what it means to *lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven*?

6. In contrast to *laying up treasures on earth*, what does not happen to *treasures layed up in heaven*?
7. Meditate on the words of Matthew 6:21 as you write them below:
 - a. What does the location of a person's *treasure* say about that person?
 - b. How can we determine where our *treasure* is (and thus where our *hearts* are)?
8. What do the following verses confirm about what Jesus has been teaching about *laying up treasures*?

Proverbs 23:5

Luke 12:21

1 Timothy 6:17

THE LAMP OF THE BODY: Read Matthew 6:22-24

1. *The lamp of the body is the eye.* What is the purpose of a lamp?
 - a. How are our *eyes* like a *lamp*?
2. What is the result of:

a *good eye*

a *bad eye*
3. The Greek word translated as *good* has also been translated as *single*. Describe an *eye* that is *single*.
 - a. How does Proverbs 4:25-27 describe a *single eye*?
4. Record the conclusion stated in Matthew 6:23.

- a. What happens when we expose ourselves to evil?
 - b. What is the admonition of Proverbs 4:25-27?
5. This advice regarding the contrast between the effects of a *good eye* and that of a *bad eye* follow the direction regarding the contrast of *laying up our treasures on earth* and *laying up our treasures in heaven*. How do you think these two statements are related?
- a. How does Matthew 6:24 relate to these statements?

DO NOT WORRY: Read Matthew 6:25-32

1. Matthew 6:25 begins with the term of conclusion, *therefore*. In what way is *worry* connected to who/what we serve?
 - a. According to verses 25 and 31, what are we *not to worry* about?
 - 1.) What question does Jesus ask in verse 25?
 - a.) How does the correct answer to Jesus' question help to alleviate *worry*?
2. Read verses 26, 28, and 29. What are we to *look at/consider*?
 - a. Using the two examples in verses 26, 27, and 30, what lessons can we learn?
3. What does Jesus call those who *worry*? see verse 30
 - a. In what ways does *worrying* reveal *little faith*?
4. Matthew 6:31 also begins with the term of conclusion, *therefore*, concluding that, because God so takes care of the *birds* and the *lilies*, we are not to *worry*. Verse 32 gives us an even better reason. What is it?
 - a. How have you personally discovered the truth of this statement?

SEEK FIRST: Read Matthew 6:33,34

1. Go back to Matthew 6:31,32. What *things* do the *Gentiles seek*?
 - a. What do you think Jesus means by the word *seek* as He used it to describe the Gentiles' priorities?
 - b. Instead, according to Matthew 6:33, what are we to *seek*?
 - 1.) What does it mean to *seek*:
the kingdom of God

His righteousness
2. What is the promised result of *seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*?
 - a. Many believers reveal by their actions that they don't believe this promise. What do you think is the hindrance?
3. Record the final verse of this section. Matthew 6:34
 - a. In addition to the things previously mentioned, what are we taught in this verse *not to worry* about?
 - 1.) This counsel begins with the term of conclusion, *therefore*. How would not *worrying* about *what we eat, drink, and wear* help us not to *worry about tomorrow*?
4. *...for tomorrow will worry about its own things...* A paraphrase of this is: *tomorrow will have its own causes for anxiety*. How have you found this to be true?
 - a. What can we learn from Luke 11:13 regarding our focus?

5. Write the final words of this lesson in your own words.

a. Why is this phrase a good reminder to those who would *worry about tomorrow*?

REVIEW: Read Matthew 6:19-34

1. In what way have you been challenged by Jesus' admonition regarding where you *lay up your treasures*?

2. In "light" of Jesus' admonition regarding what we expose ourselves to, what have you been challenged to avoid?

3. What would be some good principles to follow regarding our attitude regarding food and clothing?

4. What is the difference between planning for the future and *worrying* about the future?

5. What do you think is the overall message of Matthew 6:19-34?

*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.
For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- Hebrews 13:5*

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 6:19-34

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on 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 and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. ²⁵ "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁸ So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.