



Each year companies spend billions of dollars in advertising to get us to believe lies. These lies get us to focus on the treasures of the world, not the treasures of Heaven.

God's Word tells us not to be conformed to lies of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of our minds so we might know God's good and perfect plan for us (Romans 12:2). When we turn to God in this way we see that the treasure He offers is far better than anything being pitched to us by an ad agency.

May God richly bless you today!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Deering Dyer".

Deering Dyer  
Small Groups Pastor

## Ice Breaker Discussion

As a group, spend 5 minutes and call out all the different advertising slogans you can think of – past and present. For example: “Have it your way” (Burger King). Have someone in your group write these down as you go. When the time is up, go through the different slogans as a group. Discuss the possible lies that we might believe in those statements.

## Group Study Questions

1. Some worldly lies we believe are that we have to go for the gusto ! We can have it all. Read the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21). How does this parable refute these lies?
2. Pastor Mark asked the question, “How do we live so we can be rich toward God?” Read Matthew 6:19-21 and discuss.
3. Jesus isn’t telling us not to treasure things. He is telling us to **TREASURE** the right thing. What is the right thing to treasure? What’s the wrong thing to treasure? Discuss.



## For Further Study and Review Commentaries on Matthew 6:19-26

### The Bible Knowledge Commentary<sup>1</sup>

**6:19-24 (Luke 12:33-34; 11:34-36; 16:13).** One's attitude toward wealth is another barometer of righteousness. The Pharisees believed the Lord materially blessed all He loved. They were intent on building great **treasures on earth**. But treasures built here are subject to decay (**moth** destroys cloth and **rust** destroys metal; cf. James 5:2-3) or theft, whereas **treasures deposited in heaven** can never be lost.

The Pharisees had this problem because their spiritual **eyes** were diseased (Matt. 6:22). With their **eyes** they were coveting money and wealth. Thus they were in spiritual **darkness**. They were slaves to the master of greed, and their desire for money was so great they were failing in their service to their true Master, **God**. **Money** is the translation of the Aramaic word for "wealth or property," mamōna ("mammon," KJV).

**6:25-34 (Luke 12:22-34).** If a person is occupied with the things of God, the true Master, how will he care for his ordinary needs in life, such as food, clothing, and shelter? The Pharisees in their pursuit of material things had never learned to live by faith. Jesus told them and us **not to worry about** these things, for **life is more important than** physical things. He cited several illustrations to prove His point. **The birds of the air** are fed by the **heavenly Father**, and **the lilies of the field grow** in such a way that their **splendor** is greater than **even** Solomon's. Jesus was saying God has built into His Creation the means by which all things are cared for. The birds are fed because they diligently work to maintain their lives. They do not **store** up great amounts of food, but continually work. And believers are far **more valuable** to God **than** birds! The lilies grow daily through a natural process. Therefore an individual need not be anxious about his existence (Matt. 6:31), for **by worrying** he **can never add** any amount of time, not even **a single hour, to his life**. Rather than being like **the pagans** who are concerned about physical needs, the Lord's disciples should be concerned about the things of God, **His kingdom and His righteousness**. Then **all these needs will be** supplied in God's timing. This is the life of daily faith. It does no good to worry—**do not worry** occurs three times (vv. 25, 31, 34; cf. vv. 27-28)—or be concerned **about tomorrow** for there are sufficient matters to attend to **each day**. Worrying shows that one has "little faith" in what God can do (v. 30; cf. **you of little faith** in 8:26; 14:31; 16:8). As a disciple cares each day for the things God has trusted to him, God, his **heavenly Father** (6:26, 32), cares for his daily needs.

### The Bible Exposition Commentary<sup>2</sup>

#### Our Use of Wealth (Matt. 6:19–34)

We are accustomed to dividing life into the "spiritual" and the "material"; but Jesus made no such division. In many of His parables, He made it clear that a right attitude toward wealth is a mark of true spirituality (see Luke 12:13ff; 16:1–31). The Pharisees were covetous (Luke 16:14) and used religion to make money. If we have the true righteousness of Christ in our lives, then we will have a proper attitude toward material wealth.

Nowhere did Jesus magnify poverty or criticize the legitimate getting of wealth. God made all things, including food, clothing, and precious metals. God has declared that all things He has made are good (Gen. 1:31). God knows that we need certain things in order to live (Matt. 6:32). In fact, He has given us "richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17). It is not wrong to possess things, *but it is wrong for things to possess us*. The sin of idolatry is as dangerous as the sin of hypocrisy! There are many warnings in the Bible against covetousness (Ex. 20:17; Ps. 119:36; Mark 7:22; Luke 12:15ff; Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5).

Jesus warned against the sin of living for the things of this life. He pointed out the sad consequences of covetousness and idolatry.

<sup>1</sup>Walvoord, John F. ; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL : Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 2:33

cf. *confer*, compare  
vv. verses

v. verse

<sup>2</sup>Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Mt 6:19

**Enslavement (vv. 19–24).** 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.

If our aim in life is to get material gain, it will mean darkness within. But if our outlook is to serve and glorify God, there will be light within. If what should be light is really darkness, then we are being controlled by darkness; and outlook determines outcome.

Finally, materialism can enslave the will (Matt. 6:24). We cannot serve two masters simultaneously. Either Jesus Christ is our Lord, or money is our lord. It is a matter of the will. “But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare” (1 Tim. 6:9). If God grants riches, and we use them for His glory, then riches are a blessing. But if we *will* to get rich, and live with that outlook, we will pay a great price for those riches.

**Devaluation (vv. 25–30).** Covetousness will not only cheapen our riches, but it will also cheapen *us!* We will start to become worried and anxious, and this anxiety is unnatural and unspiritual. The person who pursues money thinks that riches will solve his problems, when in reality, riches will create more problems! Material wealth gives a dangerous, false sense of security, and that feeling ends in tragedy. The birds and lilies do not fret and worry; yet they have God’s wealth in ways that man cannot duplicate. All of nature depends on God, and God never fails. Only mortal man depends on money, and money always fails.

Jesus said that worry is sinful. We may dignify worry by calling it by some other name—concern, burden, a cross to bear—but the results are still the same. Instead of helping us live longer, anxiety only makes life shorter (Matt. 6:27). The Greek word translated *take no thought* literally means “to be drawn in different directions.” Worry pulls us apart. Until man interferes, everything in nature works together, because all of nature trusts God. Man, however, is pulled apart because he tries to live his own life by depending on material wealth.

God feeds the birds and clothes the lilies. He will feed and clothe us. It is our “little faith” that hinders Him from working as He would. He has great blessings for us if only we will yield to Him and live for the riches that last forever.

**Loss of testimony (vv. 31–33).** To worry about material things is to live like the heathen! If we put God’s will and God’s righteousness first in our lives, He will take care of everything else. What a testimony it is to the world when a Christian dares to practice Matthew 6:33! What a tragedy it is when so many of us *fail* to practice it.

**Loss of joy today (v. 34).** Worrying about tomorrow does not help either tomorrow or today. If anything, it robs us of our effectiveness today—which means we will be even less effective tomorrow. Someone has said that the average person is crucifying himself between two thieves: the regrets of yesterday and the worries about tomorrow. It is right to plan for the future and even to save for the future (2 Cor. 12:14; 1 Tim. 5:8). But it is a sin to worry about the future and permit tomorrow to rob today of its blessings.

Three words in this section point the way to victory over worry: (1) *faith* (Matt. 6:30), trusting God to meet our needs; (2) *Father* (Matt. 6:32), knowing He cares for His children; and (3) *first* (Matt. 6:33), putting God’s will first in our lives so that He might be glorified. If we have faith in our Father and put Him first, He will meet our needs.

Hypocrisy and anxiety are sins. If we practice the true righteousness of the kingdom, we will avoid these sins and live for God’s glory.