

Storing Up Treasure in Heaven - Pt 1

Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus instructed His disciples that they should store up *treasures in heaven*. The context of this statement is His teaching on “rewards” from our Father in heaven in the preceding verses. Reading verses 1-18 one will find that Jesus is talking about three Christian disciplines, *giving, praying & fasting*. Jesus speaks of these disciplines as regular actions that His disciples would in fact do. Notice that He doesn't say “if” but *when* you give to the needy...*when* you pray...*when* you fast. And the placement of His words of “storing up treasures in heaven” directly after speaking about these three disciplines indicates that these disciplines of *giving, praying, and fasting* are ways to store up treasure in heaven. As followers of Christ we want to grow in these disciplines.

This holiday season we are going to receive a **special offering** on the first Sunday of **December (the 3rd)**. This special offering will be distributed several ways: first, some of it may be distributed confidentially within the River of Life family to bless during the holiday season; secondly, Chaplain Bob & Jamie Hall will receive the remaining portion of the offering to be used in blessing those who are incarcerated at the G.T. County jail (the Forgotten Man Mission). This is an opportunity for us to practise what Jesus was teaching in Matthew chapter 6 and to store up for ourselves “treasures in heaven.”

Storing Up Treasure in Heaven - Pt 2

Matthew 6:19-21

As Jesus challenged his disciples to store up treasure in heaven He made a point of examining the motive. If the motive was receiving the recognition of men He said that the recognition would be their reward “in full.” There is a strong implication here that there would be no reward or treasure laid up in heaven. But if the motivation was receiving the recognition of our Father He gave assurance that the Father would indeed reward us.

We simply cannot do everything in secret - some things we do will be seen by others. So the real issue is not whether they are actually seen by others but whether they are done *to be seen by others*. In other words, what is my motivation?

In the illustrations that Jesus used the people were going out of their way to display to others what they were doing. They weren't trying to hide it at all. Therefore, the desire or motivation of their hearts was not to please the Father but to receive the praise of men. They wanted to appear as religious or good or respectable in the eyes of others. Thus they did the things that they thought would make them appear that way but failed to lay up treasure in heaven. Let's check our motivation. Why am I doing this or that? Can I do it without any recognition from others? Am I doing it to please Abba