



Sunday, May 15, 2011: Treasure in Heaven

Scripture: Matthew 6:16-21; Isaiah 40

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Knowing God as our Father helps us deal with the temptation to spiritual pride and worldliness.
2. We're to trust and treasure God foremost, to avoid being overcome by love of the world's things.

Our Spiritual Discipline and Our Priorities

3. Our acts of spirituality must be done sincerely before God, not to impress others.
4. In our acts of service to God, we may be tempted to grow sinfully proud and to look down upon others.
5. The purpose of fasting is added time for prayer, and focused time for God. Jesus condemns all ostentatious and pious displays.
6. An act of piety is truly done unto the Lord when it's done in secret.
7. To expect a reward from man is to get a specious reward.
8. Christ calls us to be God-centered in everything.

The World and Our Priorities

9. The world in scripture often refers not to the physical universe, but the outlook or attitude that focuses on non-eternal priorities.
10. Many Christians have a false and misguided vision of escape from the world and its activities. On the other hand, Christians easily become consumed by the concerns and pursuits of the world.
11. Seeking to escape from the concerns of the world is not a proper Christian response.
12. The quantity of money we have isn't important – it's the attitude we have toward wealth and possessions.

13. We worship either the uncreated God of Isaiah 40, or something that's created and ultimately idolatrous.
14. What is worth most to you is your treasure. God is worth most, and so we must worship Him.
15. The Lord's Day gives us one day in seven to trust God for our worldly needs and to rest in Christ.
16. Those who are rich are not to be haughty, or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches (1 Timothy 6:12-20).
17. We should trust fully in God who provides everything for our enjoyment. Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God.
18. When God is everything to us, lesser things in life take their proper and right place.
19. Riches tempt us toward the fatal flaw of self-confidence.
20. Everything will fall into its right place when we get the right perspective on our family, wealth, possessions.
21. The key is to have the right perspective as stewards of the gifts of God. He is our treasure; His gifts are our trust.
22. We are creatures. We're not even in control of our own lives. We must not then live out the lie that we're the center of our own existence.
23. There is a reward for faithfulness; the goal we live for establishes our reward, either in terms of God's kingdom and righteousness, or otherwise.

Application Questions

1. How can our own service to God be a source of temptation?
2. Is my objective in being generous, or in being a person of prayer or a faster to give a good impression to others?
3. Is my priority faith in God or faith in man? Who do I look to for my reward?
4. What are some of the spiritual benefits of biblical fasting when it is done sincerely before God?
5. What is your treasure? Family, children, career, sports, leisure, home, reputation, notoriety, wealth?
6. What does it mean to lay up treasures in heaven according to 1 Timothy 6:12-20?
7. How has our culture's attitude, that all things exist to serve me, contrast with the biblical view of stewardship?
8. Can I say to God, with Abraham, "You are my exceeding great reward"? (cf. Genesis 15:1)