

Dollars & Sense—Priorities
Study Questions
Matthew 6:19-24

Warm-up

1) What's an example of something you've bought but then later regretted (even though it didn't break and was still in great shape)? Why did you regret the purchase? What's an example of a big purchase you were glad about?

A little deeper

2) [Matthew 6:19-21] The phrase, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” can be both descriptive and prescriptive. **What sorts of things do people store up as treasures on earth? What can people store up as treasures in heaven? How do you think the act of storing up such treasures can affect the disposition of a person's heart?**

3) [Matthew 6:22-23] Jesus uses metaphor of a lamp to describe how our perspective on the world affects us internally, making us either healthy or unhealthy. The words used for *healthy* and *unhealthy* also imply *generous* or *stingy* (respectively). **How can the things we focus on impact our level of generosity? Consider the sorts of things you see commonly on TV, social media, or in the news—what sorts of things are you seeing and hearing repeatedly that could easily warp or darken someone's perspective?**

4) [Matthew 6:24] Jesus tells us that we cannot serve two masters, such as serving both God and money. It would also apply to serving one's desire for more comfort, or power, or popularity, or knowledge, etc. ... rather than God. The remainder of this chapter of Matthew then goes on to talk about worry: “Therefore... do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink.” **How can a person's anxieties reveal what they may be overly focused on?** Perhaps you heard someone express anger or anxiety about something that revealed what really mattered to them in that situation—if so, consider sharing it without naming names.

In these cases, what do you think would help the person to fix their focus more firmly on serving God?

Bringing it home

5) What “treasures” are you currently storing up, and why? Are these things more earthly or heavenly?

6) What media (such as TV, radio, YouTube, Facebook, ...) are most impacting the way you view the world? Are they shifting your focus away from loving God or loving others?

7) What anxieties do you have surrounding money, or other major areas of your life? How do these speak to your own priorities at this moment? How can you apply John 4:13-14 and more deeply drink the water Jesus gives, so that you no longer “thirst” and you can help relieve the “thirst” of others?