

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 6:19–24: God or Mammon

Preaching Date: October 18, 2026

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Understanding the Text

1. Jesus contrasts storing up treasures on earth with storing up treasures in heaven. What makes earthly treasures inherently insecure, and how does this reflect the distinction between the Present Evil Age and the Age to Come? Why does Jesus condemn the idolatry of wealth rather than wealth itself?
2. Jesus commands His disciples to store up treasures in heaven. What does this look like practically (Luke 12:33; 2 Corinthians 8:9)?
3. Jesus declares, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Why is the order of these words significant? What does this teach us about the relationship between worship and stewardship?
4. Jesus describes the "clear eye" and the "bad eye". How does the biblical connection between the evil eye, covetousness, and generosity (Deuteronomy 15:9; Proverbs 22:9) illuminate Jesus' teaching? How does the modern phenomenon called "affluenza" illustrate the danger of spiritual blindness, particularly when material prosperity is mistaken for spiritual health?
5. Jesus declares that no one can serve two masters. What is Mammon, and why does Jesus personify wealth as a rival master? How does Christ's perfect obedience, His substitutionary death, and His work in the New Covenant provide both the righteousness we lack and the freedom to serve God rather than wealth?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. President Jimmy Carter warned that Americans were increasingly defining themselves by what they owned rather than what they did. Considering the extraordinary prosperity we enjoy compared with much of the world and previous generations, where are you most tempted to confuse financial security with genuine contentment in Christ?
2. The sermon described the Ring Lady of Herculaneum, whose gold jewelry survived the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, though she did not. What would be especially difficult for you to surrender?
3. The illustration of "affluenza" described how accumulating possessions can actually increase dissatisfaction. How do advertising, social media, and comparisons with others influence your desires? What practical steps can you take to cultivate a "clear eye" fixed upon Christ?
4. The sermon compared our hearts to a ship's compass that can gradually drift off course because of surrounding magnetic influences. What subtle compromises might be pulling your heart toward Mammon?
5. Jesus declares, "You cannot serve God and wealth". If someone examined your financial decisions, calendar, and priorities, what would they conclude about whom you serve?