

June 18, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Mt. 6:19-21 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NIV)

One of the most difficult aspects of living the abundant life that He has given us is saying ‘no’ to the desires of this world. When someone might offer you something that seems like it would make your life easy or wonderful, we are many times tempted to believe that we can ‘enjoy heaven on earth.’ There is no such thing because the things of this world are transitory at best. They may seem great at first, but they will certainly fade away. Most people are looking for some type of ‘nest egg’ that will give them security in their latter days. Jesus is telling this crowd, on the side of a mountain, that nothing that this world has to offer will bring you the hope and happiness you are looking for.

What do you treasure most? Take some time this morning and meditate on that question. Many believe that if they can just amass enough, then they will find happiness, security and peace. Jesus is reminding this crowd, and us, that the treasures of this world are temporal and fleeting. What is here today can be gone tomorrow. So, what are these treasures that we can store up in heaven you might ask? It has been said many times that we have never seen a moving truck following a hearse. Better said, ‘you can’t take it with you when you go.’ And the major problem with this whole scenario is that most people are looking at the things of this world like they will last forever. You can buy toys and goods, but you can’t buy the things that really matter: eternal life, peace of mind, true life to name just a few. These are far more precious than gold. Jesus is reminding the crowd that this life is like a vapor. It appears for just a while and then is gone. What we do in this life for the kingdom is so much more valuable than the things we own. It is not wrong to possess earthly treasure, but it is wrong to lay it up for ourselves. We are to use it as good stewards to advance His Kingdom.

Dear LORD, help us not to buy into the lie of this world; that the things that are attainable will somehow bring us the joy that we are looking for. It will not. Instead, help us to focus on the things that will last for eternity. The worth of a person’s soul and the ability to share the love of the Father. In Jesus Name, Amen