

2/8/26

Sermon Title: Seek First His kingdom and His Righteousness

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Matthew 6:19-34

Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.

²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy,^[b] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[c]?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Jesus goes on, after teaching His disciples about the proper attitude toward giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting, to speak about the view of possessions and values that the people of the kingdom of God should hold.

He teaches them to store up treasures not on earth but in heaven, not to serve both God and wealth, and not to worry about what they will eat or what they will wear, but to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.

Jesus teaches that treasures stored up on earth are destroyed by moth and rust and stolen by thieves, but treasures stored up in heaven are eternal.

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

This passage does not mean that we should not save money for the future or keep valuable possessions in our homes.

Money is an indispensable and valuable part of living in this world.

Nevertheless, it must not become the purpose of our lives.

Jesus is warning against an attitude that values money and possessions more highly than what has eternal worth.

Jesus goes on to explain what life truly is by using the story of a rich man as an example.

(Luke 12:16) And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.

(Luke 12:17) He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

(Luke 12:18) “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.

(Luke 12:19) And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”

(Luke 12:20) “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

The rich man acted as though he would live forever in this world, unaware that he might die that very night.

Seeing that his fields produced an abundant harvest, he decided to build larger barns, store up goods for many years, and live at ease—eating, drinking, and enjoying himself, believing himself to be happy.

However, God called him a fool and declared that his life would be taken from him that very night.

Our lives in this world are finite.

What is even more sobering is that we do not know when they will come to an end.

It could be today, or it could be tomorrow... only God knows the appointed time. And after this life, there is an eternal life to come.

Therefore, while we live in this world, we must live wisely, preparing for the eternal life that awaits us.

A life that stores up treasures in heaven is a wise life that prepares for eternity. Then how do we store up treasures in heaven? It is by giving our hearts to God.

God desires our hearts.

As a sign of that devotion, He instructs us to store up treasures in heaven.

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

God does not tell us to store up treasures in heaven because He lacks money or needs our wealth.

He is the King of kings, and everything in this world belongs to Him.

Yet Jesus teaches us to store up treasures in heaven because human beings place their treasure where their hearts are.

What God truly desires is not our treasure, but our hearts.

Jesus also calls His disciples to have clear and healthy spiritual vision.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.

²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy,^[b] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

The original meaning of the word translated as “good” (or “healthy”) is *haplous*, which means “single,” “one-directional,” or “simple.”

It conveys the idea of singleness (unity) or wholeness, and also carries the meaning of being generous and giving freely.

It stands in contrast to having a divided heart and refers to directing one’s whole heart toward God.

A person whose gaze is not divided but fixed solely on God will act in accordance with God’s character by showing mercy and generosity, and in doing so, will store up treasures in heaven.

Such a person brings light to the world and gives glory to God.

The original word for “bad” is *ponēros*, meaning “bad” or “evil.”

Here it refers to a morally corrupt or evil condition, characterized by greed—looking with desire upon what belongs to others, cursing, and envying them.

A person with an evil eye, filled with greed, thinks only of personal needs and therefore acts selfishly, being stingy in giving to others.

Through such eyes, darkness enters the whole body, and the entire person becomes full of darkness, unable to bring light to the world.

Jesus warns against materialism (mammonism).

Jesus teaches that no one can serve both God and money.

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

People often choose money as the solution to their anxiety about the future, because they believe that money guarantees security in days to come.

As a result, they pour into money the love and devotion that should be given to God alone.

They love money and place their trust in it.

But this is idolatry.

The jealous God will surely judge idolatry.

The lives of those who believe that material possessions, rather than God, can secure their uncertain future will be filled with darkness, and they will spend their days consumed by worry.

The wealth they served instead of God will ultimately disappear.

The way to escape God’s judgment is to trust the heavenly Father, who cares for His people with mercy, and to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.

Worshiping the heavenly Father rather than mammon is the way to life for ourselves and the way to restoration for our neighbors.
Jesus teaches about the proper priorities of a Christian.

Jesus declares that life is more important than food and clothing.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”

Jesus calls us to trust God, who has given us life, will also care for us and provide for us.

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[c]?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

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³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Jesus points to the birds of the air, which neither sow nor reap, and to the lilies of the field, and asks, if the heavenly Father cares for them, how much more will He care for His people, who are created in His own image?

Food and clothing are essential for human survival.

As children of God, we must trust that our heavenly Father will provide for our needs.

Faith is trusting in our heavenly Father.

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

God knows all the needs of His children.

Therefore, when His people trust and serve Him, and set their hearts on His kingdom and His will, God provides for their needs.

Jesus instructs us to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness.

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

When we do not worry and make the kingdom of our heavenly Father and His righteousness our highest priority, God will provide everything we need.

Beloved members of Church of Godly Dreams,

Money and possessions are necessary for living in this world, but they must not become our master or the ultimate goal of our lives.

Those who do not believe in God have no trust in His care, and therefore cannot help but feel anxious and fearful about their future needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

In an attempt to relieve that anxiety, they cling to wealth.

But we who believe trust in God, who knows our needs in advance and provides for them at the right time; therefore, we do not need to cling to wealth out of worry over food, clothing, and shelter.

Rather than living in dependence on wealth, we who believe are called to live with a steward's view of possessions.

Everything we have belongs to God, and He has entrusted it to us to accomplish His purposes; therefore, we must live by the principle of using what we have according to His will.

We are to live seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness.

When we place God's kingdom and His righteousness as our highest priority and live according to His will, God will pour out everything else upon us in abundance.