

Series: Sermon On the Mount, Matthew Chpt 6
Sermon: Treasures In Heaven

Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)

“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.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

“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.”

II Corinthians 4:1-12 (NIV)

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

Sermon

I remember a few years ago when Martha Stewart got caught improperly trading stock. You remember the story. She was convicted and imprisoned for "insider trading." Geesh, that doesn't sound so bad now. She owned stock in ImClone and sold it one day before the FDA announced it wouldn't review the company's new cancer drug. The SEC thinks Martha was tipped off by the Chairman of ImClone before the sale. Martha says she was just chatting with a friend. Because Martha sold her stock when she did, she made \$46,000 more than she would have made the very next day. You've heard the saying, if it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, then it is a duck. In the same way, if it looks like insider trading and sounds like insider trading and smells like insider trading, it is probably insider trading.

This morning, I want to give you the ultimate insider trading tip. If you follow what I say, it will earn you untold wealth. We are examining some of the catch phrases that Jesus gave in his sermon on the mount. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, You are the Salt of the Earth, and so on. Today, we are hearing those familiar words, do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth. Jesus made many references to money and possessions in His