



SERMON

Living For What Matters (Matt 6:19-24)

DATE

May 6th, 2018

I CAN KNOW WHAT I'M REALLY LIVING FOR BY IDENTIFYING:

1. THE THINGS THAT I TREASURE

- a. Read Matt 6:19-21. What is this passage calling us to do and not do? What rationale does it give for this?

- b. This past Sunday, we saw the following Martyn Lloyd-Jones quote: *"We all have treasures in some shape of form. It may not be money. It may be a husband, wife or children; it may be some gift we have which in actual worth and monetary value is small...No matter what it is, or how small it is, if it's everything to you, that is your treasure, that is the thing for which you are living."*

In your life, what do you tend to treasure and live for? What is everything to you?

According to verse 21, why is treasuring the wrong thing not only illogical, but also dangerous?

2. THE FOCUS OF MY HEART

- a. Read Matt 6:22-23. John Piper explains this verse in the following way: *"There is much that passes for light through the eye that is not light. There are many bright things in the world that keep us from seeing the true light of Christ—just like city lights keep you from seeing the stars. Be careful what you regard as bright and attractive and compelling. If it is not Christ, you will be filled with darkness—no matter how bright it seems for a season. Candles seem bright until the sun comes out. Then they are useless and put away"*

If you were asked to paint a picture of "the good life, what would be in that picture? What do you picture to be the conditions needed to make you happy or fulfilled?

What is the centerpiece of that picture? Christ? Comfort? Approval? Control? Power?

- b. Jesus tells us that when our eyes are captured by dim counterfeit pictures of the good life, our bodies will be full of darkness. Do you see this darkening effect at work in your life? How so?

3. THE MASTER OF MY LIFE

- a. Read Matt 6:24. In this verse Jesus makes one thing clear: Your heart can only have one master. One allegiance.

We can often deceive ourselves into thinking, "I just need to 'prioritize' God". However, here is the problem with 'prioritizing' God: While God may be the **chief** master, he is still only one master among many. According to Matt 6:24, it is impossible for God to be the **chief** master. He must be the **sole** master or he is not actually your master.

Do you think about your Christian faith in terms of this singular allegiance? Why or why not?

- b. Examine the dispositions below. Circle the disposition you identify most. How can you begin to despise this idols mastery over your life this week?

"Life only has meaning/I only have worth if..."

- i. I have power and influence over others." (Power Idolatry)
- ii. I am loved and respected by _____. " (Approval Idolatry)
- iii. I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life." (Comfort idolatry)
- iv. I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of _____. " (Control idolatry)
- v. people are dependent on me and need me." (Helping Idolatry)
- vi. someone is there to protect me and keep me safe." (Dependence idolatry)
- vii. I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone." (Independence idolatry)
- viii. I am highly productive and getting a lot done." (Work idolatry)
- ix. I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work." (Achievement idolatry)
- x. I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions." (Materialism idolatry)
- xi. I am adhering to my religion's moral codes and accomplished in its activities." (Religion idolatry)
- xii. This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me." (Individual person idolatry)
- xiii. I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality." (Irreligion idolatry)
- xiv. My race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior." (Racial/cultural idolatry)
- xv. A particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in." (Inner ring idolatry)
- xvi. My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me." (Family idolatry)
- xvii. Mr. or Ms. "Right" is in love with me." (Relationship Idolatry)
- xviii. I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt." (Suffering idolatry)
- xix. my political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power." (Ideology idolatry)
- xx. I have a particular kind of look or body image." (Image idolatry)