

Treasure in Heaven

MATT 6: 19-21

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

1. The Illusion of Earthly Security

Jesus begins with a command—not a suggestion:

“Do not lay up treasures on earth.”

This isn’t about money alone.

It’s about where we place our sense of security, identity, and worth.

- Earthly treasures = anything temporary:
- Wealth
- Status
- Possessions
- Reputation
- Even human approval

And He reveals something profound:

Everything on earth is vulnerable.

- Moth → decay from within
- Rust → decay over time
- Thieves → loss from without

So whether slowly, suddenly, or unexpectedly— everything earthly can be taken. If your treasure can be lost, your peace can be stolen.

“Lay Up” — Greek: θησαυρίζω (thēsaurizō)

This is the verb form of thēsauros.

It means:

- To store up
- To accumulate gradually
- To hoard or reserve for future use

Jesus is describing an ongoing process, not a one-time act.

Every day, through your choices:

- You are storing something
- You are building toward something

So the teaching becomes:

You are always investing your life somewhere— you just may not realize where the return is going.

“Treasures” — Greek: θησαυρός (thēsauros)

This is where we get the English word “thesaurus.”

But in Greek, thēsauros doesn’t just mean “money” or “valuable items.”

It means:

- A storehouse
- A reserve
- A place where valuables are kept

So when Jesus says:

“Lay up for yourselves treasures...”

He is not just talking about what you value—

He’s talking about what you are storing up over time.

- Your life is accumulating something
- You are constantly building a reserve
- The question is: where is your storehouse located?

Earth = temporary storage

Heaven = eternal storage

This turns His teaching from: “Don’t love money”

Into: “Be mindful of what your life is accumulating—and where it is being kept.”

“Rust” — Greek: βρῶσις (brōsis)

This one is fascinating.

It doesn’t literally mean “rust” like metal corrosion.

It actually means:

- Eating
- Consumption
- Something being devoured

So a more literal sense would be:

“Where moth and consumption destroy...”

Jesus is describing a world where:

- Things are constantly being consumed
- Time itself is eating everything

Not just decay—devouring

The world doesn't just fade—it is actively being consumed away

“Destroy” — Greek: ἀφανίζω (aphanizō)

This means:

- To make invisible
- To cause to disappear
- To wipe out

Earthly treasure doesn't just break...

It vanishes

- Reputation disappears
- Wealth disappears
- Even memory can disappear

The things of earth are not just fragile—they are ultimately unretainable

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

2. What Does It Mean to Store Treasure in Heaven?

Jesus doesn't remove treasure—He redirects:

“Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

This raises the question:

What is a “heavenly treasure”?

Heavenly treasures are not material—they are eternal in nature:

- Love given freely
- Truth lived out
- Mercy shown
- Faithfulness to God
- Integrity when no one is watching
- Obedience born from trust

These are things:

- No decay can touch
- No time can erode
- No one can steal

Because they are rooted in the eternal nature of God Himself

“**Heaven**” — Greek: οὐρανός (ouranos)

This doesn't only mean “the place you go when you die.”

Many people interpret this as: “Store treasure for later (after death)”

But that's incomplete.

"Heaven" is:

- God's realm - The Heavens
- God's order - The Spiritual Realm
- God's reality - The Domain of God

So "treasures in heaven" are not just future rewards...

They are things rooted in:

- God's nature
- God's kingdom
- Eternal reality

This isn't just about "later" — It's about storing your life in a different realm altogether - and Living now in alignment with what is eternal
Not just waiting for later.

Heavenly Treasures

The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23)

The Epistle to the Galatians says:

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Why this matters

These are not temporary traits.

They are:

- Produced by the Spirit
- Rooted in God
- Therefore eternal in nature

So yes—these are treasures that cannot be destroyed.

Treasures Stored Through Action (1 Timothy 6:17–19)

In First Epistle to Timothy:

"Be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come..."

Key insight

Here, Paul directly connects:

Good works → stored treasure

Not money.

Not status.

But:

- Generosity
- Giving
- Living rightly

These become future, eternal wealth.

Treasures Revealed by Fire (1 Corinthians 3:12–14)

From First Epistle to the Corinthians:

“Each one’s work will become clear... the fire will test each one’s work... If it endures, he will receive a reward.”

Everything we build is tested.

- Some things burn up (temporary)
- Some things remain (eternal)

Eternal treasure = what survives the fire

God Remembers What Is Done in Love (Hebrews 6:10)

In Epistle to the Hebrews:

“God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love...”

Nothing done in love is lost.

It is remembered by God

And what God remembers...

is not subject to decay.

Seek First the Kingdom (Matthew 6:33)

Just a few verses later in Gospel of Matthew:

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”

Connection

This explains how to store treasure in heaven:

By prioritizing:

- God’s will
- God’s ways
- God’s righteousness

Eternal treasures are anything that originates from God, aligns with His nature, and therefore cannot be destroyed.

That includes:

1. Character formed in God

- Love
- Humility
- Faithfulness
- Mercy

2. Actions done in God

- Giving
- Serving
- Forgiving
- Obedience

3. Relationship with God

- Trust
- Faith
- Knowing Him

It's not just:

“Be kind so you get treasure”

That turns it into a transaction.

Instead:

Treasure is the natural result of becoming aligned with what is eternal.

You don't earn eternal treasure— you participate in it; it is what becomes a part of you in God.

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

The Heart Follows the Treasure

Jesus then reveals the core principle:

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

Notice this carefully:

He doesn't say “where your heart is, there your treasure will go.”

He says the opposite.

Your heart follows your treasure.

This means:

- What you invest in...
- What you prioritize...
- What you chase...

...that is what shapes your heart.

So if your treasure is:

- Money → your heart becomes anxious
- Approval → your heart becomes fragile
- Control → your heart becomes fearful

But if your treasure is:

- God → your heart becomes anchored

- Truth → your heart becomes clear
- Love → your heart becomes alive

“Heart” — Greek: καρδία (kardia)

This is much deeper than our modern use of “heart.”

In Greek thought, kardia is:

- The center of your being
- The seat of will, desire, and understanding
- The place where decisions are made

Not just emotion—

It’s your inner control center

When Jesus says:

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

He is saying:

Your stored value determines the direction of your entire inner life.

- Your thoughts follow it
- Your desires follow it
- Your decisions follow it

Your kardia is pulled toward your treasure

So this is not sentimental—it’s formational.

What is God’s Heart concerning Treasures:

In the OT we find:

God Himself as the Treasure

Deuteronomy 7:6 — God’s “Treasure” People

In Book of Deuteronomy:

“The Lord your God has chosen you... to be a people for His own special treasure...”

The Hebrew word here is סִגְלָה (segullah)

Meaning:

- A personal possession
- A valued treasure kept close
- Something belonging to a king

Deep Insight

In the Old Testament:

God calls people His treasure

So treasure is not just what we store for God...
It is what God Himself values and keeps

God's "Storehouses" (Heaven as Source)

Deuteronomy 28:12 — Treasury of Heaven

"The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens..."

Heaven is described as:

God's treasury

- The source of rain
- The source of provision
- The source of blessing

This connects directly to Jesus:

Heaven is where true supply is stored

Wisdom as Greater Than Material Treasure

Proverbs 8:10–11

From Book of Proverbs:

"Receive my instruction... and knowledge rather than choice gold;

For wisdom is better than rubies..."

Key Shift

Here, Scripture begins redefining treasure:

Not gold... but:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Truth

The Old Testament already teaches that true treasure is not material—it is spiritual.

Righteousness Over Riches

Proverbs 11:4

"Riches do not profit in the day of wrath,

But righteousness delivers from death."

Earthly wealth fails at the moment that matters most.

But righteousness:

- Endures
- Saves
- Has lasting value

This is almost a direct precursor to:

"Where moth and rust destroy..."

Storing Up Righteousness (A Hidden OT Theme)

Psalm 112:3, 6

“Wealth and riches will be in his house,
And his righteousness endures forever.”

“The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.”

Here’s the bridge:

- Wealth = temporary
- Righteousness = endures forever

Something is being preserved beyond time

That’s very close to the idea of “heavenly treasure.”

God Looks at the Heart (Not External Wealth)

1 Samuel 16:7

From First Book of Samuel:

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Connection to Jesus’ Teaching

This ties directly to:

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

God values:

- The inner life
- The unseen reality

Not outward accumulation.

The Fear of the Lord as True Riches

Proverbs 15:16

“Better is a little with the fear of the Lord
Than great treasure with trouble.”

You can have:

- Little materially
- But be rich spiritually

Because relationship with God outweighs all earthly gain

Wrap Up:

4. This Is About Alignment, Not Denial of good things on earth

Jesus is not saying:

- “Have nothing”
- “Own nothing”

He is saying:

Do not anchor your soul in what cannot last

You can have things...

but things must not have you.

This is about order:

- Spirit over flesh
- Eternal over temporary
- God over everything else

You are not choosing between having treasure or not—
you are choosing where your treasure will live.

5. The Spiritual Reality Behind the Teaching

The flesh says:

- “Secure yourself”
- “Build for yourself”
- “Protect what is yours”

But the Spirit says:

- “Trust God”
- “Give freely”
- “Live beyond this world”

Earthly treasure feeds fear of loss

Heavenly treasure produces freedom from loss

Because you cannot lose what is eternal.

6. Practical Reflection we can ask ourselves:

- What do I fear losing the most?
- What do I spend my time thinking about?
- What defines success in my life?

Those answers reveal your treasure.

Putting It All Together

The Old Testament builds this progression:

1. Treasure begins as material

- Gold, silver, possessions

2. Then it shifts

- Wisdom > gold
- Righteousness > riches

3. Then it deepens

- The heart matters more than appearance
- God values inner reality

4. Then the reversal

God calls His people His treasure

This Passage Is About Inevitability, Not Just Choice

Most though is that we are to:

“Choose heaven instead of earth.”

But Jesus actually assumes something deeper:

You will store treasure somewhere.

“Lay up” (store, accumulate) is ongoing.

This is not:

- Treasure vs. no treasure

It is:

- Earthly storage vs. heavenly storage

You cannot not invest your life.

Every thought, action, priority = a deposit.

Time Is the Silent Force in the Passage

“Moth... rust... thieves...”

These are not random examples.

They represent:

- Internal decay (moth)
- Slow erosion (rust / consumption)
- Sudden loss (thieves)

Overlooked Insight

Jesus is covering every way something can be lost:

Slowly - Naturally - Unexpectedly

Which means:

Nothing on earth escapes loss—not eventually.

This isn’t pessimism...

it’s reality fully seen.

Treasure Is Not Just Possession—It’s Attachment

People often think:

“I just shouldn’t have stuff.”

But Jesus never says that.

Earthly Treasure is not about what you own - But about What owns your attention, trust, and emotional weight

Two people can have the same thing:

- One is free
- One is bound

So the real question becomes:

What carries emotional authority in our life?

The Heart Is Not Leading—It's Following

We tend to believe:

“Follow your heart”

Jesus says:

Your heart follows your treasure.

Your heart is formable, not fixed.

It is shaped by:

- Repetition
- Investment
- Focus

So:

If you want to change your heart...

change what you invest in.

That's incredibly practical and rarely emphasized.

Jesus Is Quietly Redefining “Wealth”

He never says:

“Stop being wealthy.”

He redefines what wealth is.

This Passage Is About Security

Why do people store treasure?

To feel safe.

Jesus is confronting that directly.

Earthly treasure promises:

- Control
- Safety
- Stability

But cannot deliver it.

Heavenly treasure produces:

- Trust
- Peace
- Freedom from fear
- Eternal Life

So the deeper message is:
Where do you go to feel secure?

The Hidden Theme: Identity

This is subtle, but powerful.
People store treasure not just for survival...
But to answer:

- Who am I?
- What am I worth?

Earthly treasure says:

- “I am what I have”
- “I am what I’ve built”

Heavenly treasure says:

- “I am known by God”
- “I belong to Him”

So this is not just about money... It’s about identity formation

You Become What You Treasure

If your treasure is:

- Power → you become controlling
- Wealth → you become anxious
- Approval → you become unstable

But if your treasure is:

- God → you become anchored
- Truth → you become clear
- Love → you become alive

Your treasure shapes your transformation

You are not just collecting things—you are becoming something. And what you treasure determines what you become.

The Passage Is Actually About Freedom

At first glance, it sounds restrictive:

“Do not lay up...”

But it's actually an invitation.

Jesus is freeing people from:

- Anxiety of loss
- Pressure to maintain
- Fear of the future

Because: If your treasure cannot be taken... you cannot be controlled by fear