



Sermon on the Mount WISDOM FOR THE AGES

Life Groups Discussion Guide
May 3, 2020

TWO MASTERS Matthew 6:19–24

CONNECT

1. In Matthew 6:19 Jesus says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.” Can you think of a time when you pursued “treasures on earth” only for it to come back to haunt you? What was that experience? What were your expectations about that endeavor and how did it prove to be less than your expectations? How would you approach it differently today?

CELEBRATE

2. Matthew 6:1–18 presents matters to be pursued in private—“in secret” (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18). Matthew 6:19 and following address matters relating to public engagement. Process the power of being spiritually consistent in private and public. What are the challenges and benefits? How might you remain consistent across both realms?
3. Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6:19–24 puts forward a handful of contrasting points: earthly treasure versus heavenly treasure (6:19–21), light versus darkness (6:22–23) and God versus mammon or “something in which one puts confidence” (6:24). To what extent do you wrestle with these contrasts in your own life? How do you find Jesus helping you navigate these tensions? Read Colossians 3:1–17 for deeper insight.
4. In Matthew 6:22–23, Jesus seems to invite His followers to have their eyes wide open to those matters that give Him great glory and, with single-minded devotion (“healthy,” Matthew 6:22), bring His light into their lives. Consider Isaiah 5:20 and Proverbs 22:9. How do these passages help you take hold of Jesus’ purpose in His teaching in Matthew 6:22–23?
5. Often “mammon” is simply understood as “money.” 1 Timothy 6:10 reminds us it is the “love of money” that “is a root of all kinds of evils,” not the money itself. But “mammon” is more than just money—it is that thing, whatever it might be, in which you put all your confidence. What things do you love more than God and how is that working for you? Give thought to Philippians 3:7. How might the Apostle Paul’s wisdom be helpful to you? Give serious consideration to how this answer shapes the way you think about your money, relationships, politics, work ethic, hobbies and so forth. See 1 John 2:15 for further insight.

CONTRIBUTE

6. During this season of uncertainty brought on by COVID-19, how is God refining your priorities regarding allegiances to and dependencies on earthly matters? How are you processing this refining season with those close to you? In what ways might you help them? How are they helping you?
7. “You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). You must choose only one. Based on this reality, what decision points must be made today as you consider the people who come across your pathway in this pandemic season?