



## The Sermon on the Mount Right Relationships

Matthew 7:19-34

### 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, [a] 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? 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.

### [The Bible Project - Wealth and Worry](#)

“Store up for yourselves the stuff of heaven.” What’s this heaven stuff? It’s the stuff that is so secure that it can’t ever be threatened. And it’s different from our stuff here on Earth. It’s the stuff that God’s heavenly Kingdom is made of. And the more you collect it, the more you’ll experience that Kingdom here on Earth. So how do we get this stuff? Jesus said that we can experience God’s heavenly Kingdom right now when we love God and love our neighbor. It’s that rich experience of peace and fulfillment, those moments when Heaven and Earth unite when we follow the teachings of Jesus. Things like offering a kind word or an act of generosity, offering forgiveness and showing compassion. The loving relationships that we cultivate now will last into the renewed creation when Jesus returns. And what we store up has a way of slowly shaping us in its image—for better or worse. Or as Jesus puts it, “Where our stored-up-things are, there too will be your heart.” In whose image were you created? Jesus uses a vivid image to describe this focus. The eye is the lamp of the body. Good eyes light up the whole body. Bad eyes don’t allow light in and your body is filled with darkness. God is light.

“No one is able to serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You are not able to serve God and wealth.” Wealth is like a tyrant that demands our loyalty. You might think you own your stuff, but before long, your stuff will own you. Our stuff can prevent us from experiencing the union of Heaven and Earth in our lives.

We do need some stuff, though, and Jesus talks to this in vs. 25-34. He invites us to consider how God has packed creation with abundance, with each creature having just what it needs. Jesus says that if you trust God as a generous Father and prioritize loving God and loving others, you will find that your own needs are met. And you'll find the rich peace of Heaven and Earth uniting in your own life.

### **Questions for Further Study**

How do you store up treasure in heaven?

Why do you think money is an area that so frequently causes people trouble in life and in relationships?

What is the difference between a “good eye” and “bad eye”? Where does a good eye come from?

How can you grow in your generosity? See 2 Corinthians 8–9.

What or who are some of the masters you're tempted to serve?

In what ways would it be freeing to truly “worship the Lord your God and serve only him”?

What things are you most tempted to worry about? How does it help or hurt? What life lessons can we learn from Matthew 6-25-34?

What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God?

### **Judging Others**

7 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. 6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

### **Ask, Seek, Knock**

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

[The Bible Project - Wisdom in Relationships](#)

Jesus has been talking about how to live righteously, how God has always wanted us to live according to The Law and The Prophets. However, we should not judge others when we don't believe they are following these scriptures but rather empathize with them: To put ourselves in their shoes and try to understand how we would want to be treated in this situation, and to take the plank out of our own eyes to see the speck in theirs.

Jesus goes on to explain that sometimes people are not in a place to receive help. Offering God's wisdom will only make them angry, so it's actually unwise: "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs." Other times, they may listen to God's wisdom when we share it. Our role is to seek God's wisdom and discern when to offer help or not. Jesus reminds us to seek, ask, and knock and God will answer. God is a good Father and wants to give you, His children, good gifts.

### **Questions for Further Study**

What does it mean to judge? What kind of judging is Jesus talking about in these verses?

Why does Jesus say we shouldn't judge? Is there ever a time when it is okay to judge?

What is the speck of sawdust and the plank in the eye referring to?

What/who do the dogs and pigs refer to?

What kind of people are we not to share precious truths with? (Proverbs 26:4)

What should we ask for? What should we seek for? What are we knocking for?

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