

‘Where is Your Heart At?’ Matt. 6:19-24

I. What is success?

Success in this world usually means that an individual has gained one, if not all, of the following: wealth, power and fame. And if a person gets one of these, he can usually get the other two.

A. Wealth. Who would deny that wealth is a sign of success in America today? Those who have it are usually treated better, get better seats, have special banks and investments that ordinary folks can't use. Even the early church had a problem with showing _____ to rich people. But some people today will even use money as a measuring stick of their relationship with God.

B. Power. People want to have control of their own destiny, to be able to tell others what to do with no one telling them what to do. We also see power struggles in the home as people fight for ‘who's the boss?’ Sadly, we also see it in churches. The human desire for power seems almost unquenchable.

C. Fame. We may lack money, we may lack power, but if we can get fame, we can still feel successful. We see this in social circles, politics and high schools.

Many Christians too, as part of this culture, end up pursuing these same things. But Jesus comes along and He upsets this whole apple cart of treasures. He calls us to not chase after this world's standards of success and tells us to seek first His _____ and His righteousness.

Now, there is nothing wrong with gaining wealth, power or fame. It's how you get it. It's what your focus is on. It's where is your heart at? What is your motivation?

II. Singleness of purpose 6:19-24

A. In this passage, Jesus is basically saying the same thing three times, in three different ways. Moths, rust and thieves all represent the things that can destroy our worldly possessions. None of these possessions are safe here. But when possessions are lovingly, wisely, and generously used to help others in the name of Christ, when used for kingdom purposes, it's like sending them on ahead; that's how we lay up treasures in heaven. The old word for this is worldliness. It is still one of the greatest dangers to our spiritual life, thus Jesus speaks out against it here very strongly.

B. The eye in verse 22 is an illustration of the heart. When our hearts, our spiritual eyes, are clear, pure and clean the whole body will be full of light and clear and clean. It's describing a single-minded heart. But if you have a bad eye, an evil eye, this is an eye that is selfish, _____, stingy.

Singleness of purpose is one of the great secrets of spiritual prosperity.

C. You cannot serve two masters. We can no more serve two masters than we can walk in two directions at the same time. If we attempt to serve two masters, we will end up pleasing neither one.

Conclusion: Let us set our hearts to follow Christ. To be like Paul: *‘this one thing I do’*, not these 40 things I dabble at. Be committed to Christ and your whole body will be full of light.

Remember Elijah's challenge to the Israelites up on Mt. Carmel. 1 Kings 18:21

Each day, choose wisely.

Where is your heart? Do you have a good eye or a double-minded, greedy, evil eye?

Is your heart more on treasures above or more on treasures below?

Jesus calls us to live in a radically different way than the world does. His criteria for success is very different than our world's definition of success.

He calls us to give up our puny power plays and follow His example, to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, to lay up treasures in heaven!