

## Chapter 1 : Laying Up Treasures In Heaven (Matt. ) – West Palm Beach church of Christ

*The treasures of heaven lie in the realm of the spiritual - forgiveness, fellowship with God, the power of prayer, the development of character and moral excellence, the love of God and brethren, the hope of heaven.*

Real Teachings of Jesus The teachings of Jesus have undergone misinterpretation and mistranslation for nearly 2,000 years. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. While we each wear temporary physical bodies for a specific period of time, we each have a unique and unseen by the gross physical eyes spiritual identity. This is the person that drives the energy and the activities of the body. This is the person who exhibits emotions through the body. This person is eternal, while our physical bodies are temporary. Our home is in the spiritual realm, where our spiritual identities naturally exist in our normal state. This was our state of existence before we decided to reject God, precluding our arrival in the physical world. If Jesus did not assume this real existence as spiritual rather than material, why would he instruct his students to: Without having an identity beyond this earth - a spiritual identity - these statements would make no sense. Learn more about our real identity. Such "treasures" stored up on "earth" - are temporary, according to Jesus. All the money, the house, the family, the fame and all the other stuff that we can accumulate here in this world is all temporary. These are all made of molecules that will change into other objects as they decompose and degrade. Ultimately we will have to leave everything behind at the time of death, unless of course we lose them beforehand. As for the dream for building that happy home with the white picket fence and the kids and the dog, these will all disintegrate as well. The kids will grow up, the dog will die, the house will get old and need rebuilding and the white picket fence will fall apart. Then one day our body will die and we will leave everything behind. They will all be gone in an instant. The question this statement by Jesus brings to bear is what is that treasure we can store up in heaven? What could we possibly do now to store some sort of treasure in the spiritual world? What are the "treasures in heaven" then? Once we rebuild our lost relationship with the Supreme Being we will never lose it. By redeveloping our loving relationship with God, we are building for ourselves a permanent treasure in the spiritual world, because this is where that relationship ultimately resides, and where He is to be found. Our relationship with God can be redeveloped while we are in the physical world. The problem is that because of these physical bodies, we cannot see Him when we are focused upon the things of this world. Only when we begin to focus our lives and our efforts towards pleasing Him, does our relationship begin to redevelop. If we are focused upon the temporary things of the physical world, our heart will stay in the physical world. If we are focused upon the Supreme Being and His world, our heart will be with the Supreme Being in the spiritual world. It is our choice. We choose where and who we focus our lives upon.

**Chapter 2 : Children's sermon - Treasure in Heaven | The Project**

*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. — nkjv Matthew Poorly installed electric wiring caused a fire that burned down our newly built home. The flames leveled our house within an hour, leaving nothing but.*

By a word of His power He called God spoke and the ocean beds were scooped out, the mountains formed, and the stars flung into orbit. The majestic power of God moved mightily upon the world for it was void until He spoke it into existence. What an awesome sight -- sitting in the moonlight on a clear night and looking up towards heaven seeing His amazing creation. Has anyone seen Heaven? Yes, John, a disciple of Christ, wrote what he has seen: It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as a crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass" Revelation There will be no tears or pain in heaven. Our bodies will be transformed, no longer suffering but moving mightily as God directs. For in heaven we will be singing praises to God. The angels will be rejoicing as the saints gather together bowing before God. Any crowns or gifts we receive, we will lay at the foot of Jesus. For Christ is worthy to receive honor and glory forever. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Where is your treasure? Do you believe you are a sinner Romans 3: He wants you to spend eternity with Him in heaven. Do you believe this in your heart and accept it by faith? If so, pray a prayer similar to this: I accept You as my Savior now. I believe that You died for my sin, was buried, and rose again for me. Please forgive my sins and help me to live a life that would bring You glory. Cleanse my heart and make it pure as I trust and obey You. In Jesus name I pray, Amen. God , the Father, sent His only Son to satisfy that judgment for those who believe in Him. Jesus , the creator and eternal Son of God, who lived a sinless life, loves us so much that He died for our sins, taking the punishment that we deserve, was buried , and rose from the dead according to the Bible. If you truly believe and trust this in your heart, receiving Jesus alone as your Savior , declaring, " Jesus is Lord ," you will be saved from judgment and spend eternity with God in heaven. What is your response?

Chapter 3 : Treasures in Heaven Object Lesson â€” [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com)

*Real Treasures of Heaven Bible: Real Treasures of Heaven (Treasures in heaven) â€¢ Matthew Bottom Line: Live like you know what really matters. Memory Verse: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."*

Make some very obvious, and others less so. Have enough pennies that everyone in the class is able to collect a few at least. When the students arrive, have them write their names on an envelope. Have them leave their envelopes on their seats. I have hidden hundreds of pennies around the classroom today. Your job is to find the pennies and put them in the envelopes. You may put them in your envelope or you may put them in any other envelope you want. This must be done on your own free will. You may only add pennies to them. Once all of the pennies are found, we will count how many are in each bag. Watch especially for the children who put pennies in the envelopes of their fellow classmates. Once all or most of the pennies have been collected, have the children take the envelope with their name on it and count how many pennies are inside. Ask how many pennies each student collected. Why did they win? I did not say that the winner would be the one who collected the most pennies. In fact, I never once mentioned that there would be any winner to this game. Now why would most of us think that the winner is the one who has the most money? Instead of pennies, if desired, use tickets or slips of paper. If using this option, be sure to leave time at the end of class. Open your Bibles to Matthew 6: I will read it out loud as you follow along. To get a picture of what is going on here, Jesus is talking to a crowd about how to live righteously. Follow along as I read: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. He says, do not lay up, or store up, treasures on earth. The picture Jesus is trying to give his listeners is that of someone hoarding earthly treasures. Picture a dragon sitting in his cave, guarding a big old pile of gold. Or picture this guy: I am in no way affiliated with this video. That guy is the exact opposite of who Jesus tells us to be. Scrooge McDuck found all his happiness in his money. What would he have done if someone stole all his money? He would be devastated! He would have nothing left! His heart was just set on his treasure. But I do have my own treasures. I have things I love, and would be very upset if I lost some of them. I love this jacket. I love my computer. I would be very upset if I lost this jacket or my computer. Can you think of some of your own treasures? The problem comes when we think that these things are the most important things in our lives. So Jesus tells us that instead of hoarding treasures on earth, we are to pile up treasures in heaven. Can I store up my jacket and computer in heaven? Treasures that we can store in heaven are the things we do to serve God. Can you think of some of the treasures we can store in heaven? So Jesus wants us to store up heavenly treasures instead of earthly treasures. So we can have our focus, our joy, and our love on things are earth, on things that may get stolen or fall apart, or we can have our focus, our joy, and our love, in heaven, by doing things to serve God. Hold up glass baking dish in front of your face. When you look through a window, you can see everything going on outside. When people look through the same window, they can see us. When people look at our lives, they should be able to see Jesus and the good things he has done in our lives. What happens when we pull the curtains shut on a window? After the kids answer, put dark paper inside dish and look through it. And they cannot see the good things Jesus has done in our lives. Put the glass with the paper in it in front of your face, make a silly face and pull it away. Do this a few times, to make the kids giggle. We have to remove the darkness from our lives and let the light of Jesus shine through for everyone to see. Everyone, stand up and stay in front of your seat. Now for this game, you must listen to both me and my assistant. We are both Simon, and you must do what we both say, at the same time. Along with your assistant, call out Simon Says motions. Both of you call out different motions at the same time, that cannot be done at the same time, such as hop on one foot and run in place, do jumping jacks and put your hands on your hips, smile and frown. Stop after about three calls and have the kids sit. No one could listen to both Simons at the same time. Jesus says we cannot serve both God and money. It means all of our earthly treasure. We cannot love all of the things we own, and

hoard them and not share them, and serve and love God at the same time. It is not wrong to have money and stuff. What matters is what we do with it. Do we pile it all up and keep it to ourselves, or do we use it to help others? So back to our question. Why did we think the winner is the one with the most money? TV, movies, music, and people all tell us that our worth is found in what belongs to us. But as Christians, we know that it is not about what belongs to us, but about who we belong to. We belong to Jesus, who died for our sins. When we serve him by sharing our earthly treasures with those in need, we store up real treasures in heaven. So think about those pennies you collected during our game. They are your pennies. I want you to make a decision about those pennies. They are now some of your earthly treasure. Will you store that treasure up for yourself, where it may get lost or stolen, or will you use it to help build up heavenly treasures? How can you use those pennies to store up heavenly treasures? Pass out a columns page and a treasures page to each child. Have scissors and glue sticks available. Go through the columns, describing each picture. The kids must cut out each picture and glue it into the proper column. Is the treasure an earthly treasure or heavenly treasure? Once they have glued each treasure into the correct column, they may color the pictures.

### Chapter 4 : Where Is Your Treasure? (Matthew ) | [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com)

*Jesus told us to "store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew ). He linked this command to the desire of our hearts: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew ; see also verses ).*

Include a picture or drawing of something that was stolen. Explain how Jesus said we could live life His way and actually have treasure in heaven that would last for ever. Worn out, moth eaten or rusted items; some representation of a stolen item; For dramatic effect: Consider have a garbage can that you can throw discarded items into. This morning I want to show you some of my favourite treasures. Look at this nice watch. This watch cost me a lot of money and it used to be one of my favourite little treasures. I might as well throw it into the garbage. Look at this nice sweater. I was sure it was safe and sound, but look at this hole! Do you know what made this hole? It was a moth. Moths seem nice and gentle but they actually love to eat the material that this sweater is made of. Now my nice sweater is worthless. I might as well throw it out. Look at this wrench. Now I have one last item to show you. Hold up a picture of an item that was stolen Can you tell what this is a picture of? I only can show you a picture because the real baseball mitt was stolen from me. I left it on a park bench for a few minutes and when I came back it was gone! Someone had stolen my nice baseball mitt. They can break down, rust out, get eaten by moths or can even be stolen. However, Jesus said that we could actually make treasures in heaven that will last forever. Heavenly Father, Help us not to spend too much of our lives worrying about fancy treasures here on earth.

**Chapter 5 : 75 Bible verses about Treasure**

*Storing real treasures in heaven is the stock-in-trade for all Christians to partake of--to become skilled practitioners in. And this is more broadly the real purpose and meaning to life if any would care to listen with the eyes and ears of the heart fully open.*

Click to enlarge "Sermon on the Mount" Bloch Greek: Do not gather and heap up and store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust and worm consume and destroy, and where thieves break through and steal. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: Treasure not up to yourselves treasures on the earth, where moth and rust disfigure, and where thieves break through and steal, Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal: Ironside explains that "All treasures are to be held in subjection to God and used as He directs. He who is in touch with eternal realities can well afford to hold earthly possessions with a loose hand. Worldly wealth soon passes away and leaves him who has nothing else poor indeed. But those who lay up heavenly treasure by spending and being spent for God, while numbered perchance among the poor of this world, will be rich in faith. When life is ended here they will find endless treasure held in reserve above. The more we distribute for the blessing of others as guided by the Lord, the more wealth we lay up in Heaven. But in many parts of it the instruction is general, and unconnected with any particular persons or circumstances. The Pharisees indeed were covetous: He calls them away from anxieties about this life to a restful faith in God Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. Lay not out your life for gathering wealth: That earthly things decay, or are taken from us, is an excellent reason for not making them the great objects of our pursuit. Hoard not for thieves, gather not for corruption: To live for the sake of growing rich is a gilded death in life. Commentary G Campbell Morganâ€¦ THE King having declared the laws of human inter-relationship, and having dealt with the principles of Divine relationship, proceeded to the discussion of the attitude of His subjects towards earthly things. The subjects of the Kingdom still have necessary relationships with the earth. They are spiritually minded, but they have to touch material things. However much the inner life may be, and ought to be, in communion with that which is essentially spiritual, we can only continue to live at all as we touch and handle things which are seen and temporal. The Manifesto of the King proceeds, therefore, to make clear what our relationship ought to be to the material things by which we are surrounded, and with which we have to deal. Here, as on all former occasions, there is a remarkable absence of rules, but there is the clearest revelation of principle. Not by legal enactments, formulated, tabulated, and learned by heart; but rather by the creation of an atmosphere, and the indication of an attitude, does the King correct and condition our relationship to the things of the present life. Broadly, He teaches that, in all contact of His subjects with earthly things, they must be dominated by a super-earthly consciousness. Men must deal with the wealth of the world, but if their consciousness is conditioned merely within that material wealth, they fail. If all their dealing with wealth is motivated by, and conditioned within a spiritual conception, then they will have found the deepest secret of life, and fulfilled the highest purpose of their Master. Men must have food to eat, must have clothes to wear; but if they spend all their days thinking about what they shall eat, or what they shall wear, they are not understanding or realizing the ethic of JESUS. This section consists of two parts, each characterized by warning and instruction. This is the whole of His will for His people. This is not irrational; He proves it to be reasonable. This is not an appeal to credulity; it is a call for faith. This is not fatalism; it is the essence of fidelity, fidelity to the principles afore enunciated, to the purposes perpetually revealed, and to the great Lord and Master to Whom allegiance is owed. Some of His listeners were doing this! As an aside, it is difficult to find Biblical support for retirement per se. Remember that in this section Jesus is giving us His divine advice on how to handle anxiety and worry. He is fully aware that anxiety and worry often have their genesis pathogenesis! And so He begins by advising us not to be in the habit of treasuring up treasure for ourselves. Our bereavements would not be half so sharp if we always viewed our friends as being lent to us. A man does not cry when he has to return a tool which he has borrowed. These ancient words by Jesus are so

appropriate to our wealthy Western culture where possessions often end up possessing their "owners". Or stated another way, it is not wrong to possess things, but it is wrong for things to possess us. The desire of many in our society is to build our lives around the "things" we own. InterVarsity Press Not uncommonly we make an arbitrary division of our life into that which is spiritual and that which is material. Material and spiritual cannot be separated. As an aside, attending church on Sunday the "spiritual activity" should not and ultimately cannot be separated from how one conducts themselves Monday through Friday. Religion that is not real is just that—lifeless religion! First, there is no ban on possessions in themselves. Scripture praises the man for storing in the summer the food it will need in the winter, and declares that the believer who makes no provision for his family is worse than an unbeliever. Thirdly, we are not to despise, but rather to enjoy, the good things which our Creator has given us richly to enjoy. Our heart always follows our treasure. In a word to lay up treasure on earth does not mean being provident making sensible provision for the future but being covetous. To lay up treasure in heaven is to do anything on earth whose effects last for eternity. It seems that Jesus was referring to such things as these: All these are temporal activities with eternal consequences. We come nearer to an appreciation of what He said when we read, "Treasure not up treasures upon the earth, but treasure for yourselves treasure in heaven. There is a peculiar quality in the Greek word which is not suggested by our word "treasure. There are other Greek words which mean to place something perpendicularly. Here we have an instance of the figurative element in language. What was meant by placing horizontally? To place in a passive condition, as the word which indicates to place something perpendicularly means putting it in an active relationship. This word means to lay something aside horizontally that is, to store something up, to keep it; not to place something perpendicularly, ready for activity and work, but to hoard it. It is the laying of things up, one thing upon another, piece upon piece, horizontally, that we may possess them, take care of them, and accumulate them. Every boy remembers that he has often been told, that the miser says coins are flat that they may rest; and the spendthrift says they are round that they may roll. Now the King does not say that it is wrong to lay up, for while He says "treasure not up," He also says "treasure up. The common capacity to which He is here appealing is that of the passion for possession. There is not a single capacity of human life wrong inherently. The abuse of it, the misuse of it, is wrong. Whenever we see a man passionately desirous of possession we may say: That is all right. It may be made all wrong by his method and motive; by the way in which he attempts to possess, and the purpose for which he desires to possess. It is always the purpose at the back of things which matters. It is as though He said: You have a passion to possess wealth, you want to be able to place things horizontally; and it is quite right that you should do so GOD made you so. Being, having, doing; that is the story of human life. There is no Beatitude on possessing, but possession may be sanctified. We want to make our fortunes. We have desires as passionate as those of any man to possess. And the nearer we come to our Lord, and the more we know of the indwelling Spirit, the more powerfully is the passion to possess burning in our heart and life. But the question of importance is as to the principle upon which we seek possession. That is a great word in the book of Ezekiel, spoken to the Prince of Tyre: Put the two together, and we have stones principle; fire passion; principle shot through with passion, passion held by principle. Men have the passion to possess, to treasure up. What principle is going to govern us? That is the matter with which the Master is dealing. The principle revealed is not that it is wrong to lay up treasures for ourselves, for when the Master comes to the positive statement, He distinctly says, "Lay up for yourselves. It is discovered in the phrases, "Treasures upon earth. You are to remember, with the passion burning within you, that you are not the child of to-day, you are not of the earth, you are more than dust; you are the child of tomorrow, you are of the eternities, you are the offspring of Deity. The measurements of your lives cannot be circumscribed by the point where blue sky kisses green earth. All the fact of your life cannot be encompassed in the one small sphere upon which you live. You belong to the infinite. If you make your fortune on the earth, poor, sorry, silly soul, you have made a fortune, and stored it, in a place where you cannot hold it. Make your fortune, but store it where it will greet you in the dawning of the new morning, when old earth passes from you. Make your fortune there. Possess not the things of the now; but the things of the now and the forever. Wealth consisted in those days very largely of fabrics, purple and fine twined linen: That is a fine touch of tender sarcasm. There is no anger in it.

**Chapter 6 : Treasure in Heaven, Matthew A Sermon Message from Bethany Bible Church**

*Children's prayer: Heavenly Father, Help us not to spend too much of our lives worrying about fancy treasures here on earth. Help us to live life Jesus' way and have true treasure in heaven. Help us to live life Jesus' way and have true treasure in heaven.*

Before kids arrive, spend a few minutes praying that God would help make the abstract concept of treasures in heaven Live like you know what really matters. I can trust God no matter what. Setting the Tone for the Experience 9: Creating a Safe Place to Connect 9: Providing Time for Fun Interaction Small Groups, 15 minutes Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Before kids arrive, spend a few minutes praying that God would help make the abstract concept of treasures in heaven very real and concrete for your few. Pray that you would be able to facilitate an environment in which kids learn how to make wise choices with their time, money, and talents. Pray that kids would leave today with some tangible ways to live like they know what really matters. Plastic cups, duct tape, rulers, marbles or ping-pong balls What You Do: Kids must stay on their stomachs the whole time. No supplies needed What You Do: Use the optional questions below to facilitate discussion. Maybe you got an allowance or a gift. Maybe you found a quarter in the cushion of your sofa. If you did receive money, how did you use it wisely? Did you put it in your Money Bags? Bible Truth What You Need: Worship What You Need: Play high-energy music as kids enter. Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter. Taking care of what? Everything belongs to God. Your job is to take care of them and use them wisely. Please give her a huge, warm welcome. Well, stewardship starts with knowing what really matters. When you know what matters most, that changes the choices you make. You [Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters. He gave a really famous speech once. You can read it for yourself in the book of Matthew, chapters five through seven. Moths and rats can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, gather for yourselves riches in heaven. There, moths and rats do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. Use your time, your things, and your money the way God wants you to. Hold up the alarm clock. Your time is a gift from God. So how are you going to use it? Take some ideas from the audience. Yeah, you can make time for your family and friends. You can choose to help people who need it. When you do those things, you [Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters. Hold up the art set, the soccer ball, and the video game controller. So take good care of it! What are some ways you could do that? Yeah, those are great ideas too! You can use your stuff to do good and help people. You can be generous and willing to share with others. Hold up the 10 dollar bills. Our money really belongs to Him. So instead of just trying to spend all our money on things we WANT, we need to make a plan for our money: What are some ways we can use our money wisely? You guys are super creative with the ways you can use your money wisely! And when you choose to use your money wiselyâ€”you guessed itâ€”you [Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters. Open Bible to Matthew 6: But God says what really matters is different than that. Be a good steward of the time, the things, and the money God has given you. Use them to help others and make a difference. But the things you do for God will last forever. We need Your help to make choices with our time, our things, and our money that will honor You and make a difference for other people. Help us to live our lives for the things that matter most. No matter how much I have, everything still belongs to Him. And I bet that if you thought about it, you know how to live for what really matters. You do it by loving God and loving others the way Jesus did. You live for what matters by making wise choices with your time, your things, and your money. Creating a Safe Place to Connect 10 minutes Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions. One kid from each team races the treasure box and grabs a coin containing words of the memory verse. Kids need to be careful because not all the words on the coins are part of the memory verse. Our memory verse tells us if we take care of the little thingsâ€”if we can be trusted with the little thingsâ€”then we show others we can also be trusted with the big things. Taking even a little time to love others the way Jesus did honors God. Using even the little things you have to make a difference honors God. When you make wise choices with the little things, you show God and others you can make wise choices

with the big things. You can put them on your bathroom mirror or on the door to your room. Or you can hang them from a lamp next to your bed or on your closet door. What matters to God should matter to you too, and reciting these verses is a great way to remember to use your time wisely, to be generous, to share what God has given you with others, and most importantly to [Bottom Line] live like you know what matters. We want to follow Your ways. We want to love others the way You love us. Help us to live like we know what really matters.

**Chapter 7 : Real Treasures of Heaven - PDF Free Download**

*Matthew New International Version (NIV) 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.*

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. Our relationship to the Father as His children is the most remarkable and incredible relationship. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. In Matthew 6, Jesus brings up two big temptations we all face as believers that distract us and pull us away from the importance and the satisfaction that we can have in our relationship with God the Father. The first temptation evident in chapter 6 is the religious man doing his works before man to receive the praise of man instead of doing them in secret, where only God the Father knows. Jesus says that if we seek the praise of men, we have our reward, but if we seek to glorify God, the Father will reward us openly. The examples given are charitable deeds, prayer, and fasting. The temptation is to seek to be noticed, to be put on a high pedestal as one who is religious, and to gain the praise of men. The second temptation we face as believers is the temptation of being like the world in seeking treasures on this earth. Both of these temptations want our attention, and both distract us from what truly matters — our relationship with God the Father. The big question from the Sermon on the Mount is the question of where my heart is. In reading through and studying the Sermon on the Mount over the past several months, my heart has been challenged to really think through this question and to evaluate if my heart is seeking after self or after a real, vibrant relationship with God. The heart is a well from which all the issues of life gush forth. In this message, I ask three questions. The first question we must ask ourselves as we begin this passage of Scripture is: The second question to ask ourselves is: Are they focused on the seen or the unseen? The final question to be addressed is: Jesus is also surrounded by people who have never heard this kind of radical teaching. Jesus is asking us to repent, to change our minds about these things, to live a life of faith, and to serve the one true God. Where Is Your Treasure? It is not too difficult to think of examples of men and women who have laid up for themselves treasures upon the earth, thus showing where their heart truly was. Several come to mind: Example 1 — The story of Achan Joshua 6: In verse 18, God instructs the children of Israel to attack Jericho, to abstain from the accursed things, and to bring all the silver, gold, and vessels of bronze and iron to be consecrated to the Lord into the treasury of the Lord. Now as they attack Jericho, one of the men disobeys the command of the Lord and keeps for himself a beautiful Babylonian garment, shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing 50 pounds. In this story, a rich young ruler comes to ask Jesus a question. The question he asks is how he might have eternal life. You can tell by his reaction. His heart is controlled by his wealth and riches. This young ruler is wealthy and supposedly has a lot going for him, but he is not willing to let those things go in order to follow Jesus. He is willing to love his neighbor and do the commands that pertain to his fellow man, but when it comes down to loving the Father and having no other gods before Him, he is not willing to let go of the wealth he obtained here on earth in order to gain eternal life. We have seen a couple of examples of people who laid up their treasures on the earth, and the end result for both of these situations was death. Their hearts were set upon the things of this earth, and they were willing to disobey God for the sake of temporal riches that do not last. The things we gather here on earth are only temporal; they do not last for eternity. Where is your treasure? So many things come to mind when I think of what Jesus is saying in these three verses that begin our passage. Are you earthly-minded or heavenly-minded? Are you investing in the future eternity to come, or are you investing in

the here and now? Are you enthralled with the temporary versus the permanent? Now obviously all of these are asking the same thing, but it is very important that we fully grasp this thought. Jesus uses the three examples below to show how the things we deem most important are only temporary. He uses the moth, rust, and the thief. We can all think of examples of these things in our lives. For instance, someone drives a new car off the lot so proudly. They love this vehicle. They have the windows rolled down and the music cranked as they want the world to know they have just bought this new car! The next thing you know, a little humility comes as they are sideswiped, and their new shiny car is destroyed and no longer of value. We all know that when moths get into our clothes, they eat holes right through them. But it will destroy the most expensive, elaborate fabric you could ever own. I grew up in Canada where roads are salted in the winter, and the effect of that salt on cars is brutal. We had an old, brown Dodge Ram truck that had holes in the bed because of rust; it even had holes in the floorboards due to rust. You could have the nicest car in the world, but eventually, because of the snow and slush and all the salt that gets on the outside of your car, it eventually rusts. Rust destroys, as moths do, the property and riches we work so hard to obtain. With money and riches comes great fear of someone taking them, so mankind does all in his power to protect what he has. He puts walls around his house so no one can get in. He has security guards guarding them at all times and hidden safes for his rare jewels. What does the thief do? He breaks in and takes what the wealthy man has, and he will do anything to get it. What do you deem as valuable, because what you deem as valuable shows you where your heart is? Maybe it is money and wealth; maybe it is power and the desire to be recognized as a leader; maybe it is looking spiritual on the outside so that people think you have it together. Maybe it is popularity and acceptance through nice clothes, a home, or an X-box gaming console. Maybe it is your family and how you have raised great kids. Here, Jesus is calling us to change our minds from the temporary to the eternal, from the things that are passing by to the things that are permanent. You never see a hearse pulling a U-Haul trailer! If you did, we would all be shocked because we know the earthly treasures we store up cannot be taken with us. They are only temporary. All through the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus asks us to repent, to change our minds and our attitudes, and to be like those in Hebrews 11 who had eternity in their hearts and the promises God gave them. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desired a better that is a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them Hebrews

In contrast, Jesus says in Matthew 6: What are these treasures Jesus is talking about? Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. What an awesome thing to know that as believers our inheritance is waiting for us, that as children of God, we will inherit eternity! Being with Christ, that is our reward! Those who strive to store up treasures here on earth will be disappointed because those treasures will only pass away. At the end of our life as believers, we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account for our lives here on the earth. Whatever we have laid upon that foundation, whether gold or hay, will go through the fire and either last or not last. Those believers who seek to build up wealth and riches on earth will suffer loss and will be saved as through fire, whereas those who strive to lay up treasures in heaven will receive a reward. For example, loving your neighbor as yourself “if a man has a need for a shirt and you have extra, give him one” being a cheerful giver, honoring God in your marriage, guarding your mind against adulterous thoughts, sharing the good news of the gospel with those around you. There are so many things which all narrow down to loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving your neighbor as yourself. In the final statement in verse 21, Jesus goes back to the heart: When we set our hearts on the things of this earth and fall to the temptation of being worldly in our ways, we are committing idolatry because we are no longer serving God. Rather, we have put our riches above

God, and we are serving them. They have become our god and our life. Jesus challenges us, as He challenged those He was talking to that day in the crowd, to ask ourselves where our treasure is. If your treasure is on earth and the things of this world, your heart will be there as well. If your heart is focused on the Father and on laying up treasures in heaven, your heart will be there. I am reminded of the movie, *The Mummy*, and a character called Beni.

**Chapter 8 : What does it mean to Store Treasures in Heaven? – REAL TALK with Paul Lacerna**

*When we serve him by sharing our earthly treasures with those in need, we store up real treasures in heaven. So think about those pennies you collected during our game. They are your pennies.*

What consumes your thoughts and conversations? What, if you lost it, would crush you? We treasure the idea of gradually increasing our standard of living and the number and quality of our possessions. Though it is difficult to calculate, some have said that Jesus speaks more about sins with money than any other sins. In our text today, Jesus is going to teach his disciples what they should be concerned with accumulating throughout their lives. As Jesus speaks about the accumulation of treasures, we need to remember that Jesus is speaking to us also and not everyone else in the world. Jesus tells his disciples what not to accumulate, what to accumulate, and in verse 21 why they need to obey his words. Treasures On Earth 6: Jesus is not saying there is something inherently evil about riches or experiencing enjoyment. Though Jesus is preaching about a kingdom that is not of this world, Jesus understands that his disciples live in the world every day and have to come in contact with the physical. Our goal is to find exactly what he means by commanding us to not accumulate treasures on earth. So, what does it mean to not accumulate treasures on earth? There is no difficult Greek to parse through. It is difficult because it takes a sword right to the thing we struggle with the most in Western culture and we struggle with how to react. I was surprised to find as I read through the sermon on the mount that this how Jesus speaks the entire time. He speaks direct and to the point. Consider how Jesus speaks about divorce and remarriage in Matthew 5: But imagine reading this to someone who has been in a situation like this. There are a lot of different reactions. Most of the time people in these situations begin making all kinds of justifications and loopholes that protect their current situation. I feel like doing the same thing when Jesus tells us to not accumulate treasures on earth. I immediately look in guilt at my current perception of retirement accounts. I immediately look in guilt at our closets and drawers stuffed full of clothes. I immediately look in guilt to all the decorations, furniture, cars, electronics, collections, and cash we accumulate. I look in guilt to the treasure storehouses that our homes and bank accounts have become. My possessions are safe. Or, maybe we are just like the adulterer justifying our disobedience of a simple statement. I imagine that someone from a third world country could give a more objective evaluation of our lives. Overcoming this deep problem will require our time and diligence. Our study of this passage can start this process. There are many possessions we love. But notice the encouragement Jesus gives at the end of verse Though we have accumulated and fallen in love with many possessions, they have a quick expiration date. Clothes become tattered and moth eaten. Stuff decays and breaks. People steal and take advantage of us. We hold tightly onto our material loves, but they will pass away. The archeological remains throughout the world are reminders of how true this is. People spent their entire lives accumulating riches, conquering nations, and building empires. Long ago their lives and empires were firm fortresses. Now we dig into the ground and find crumbled remains of what people spent their entire lives treasuring. Jesus is telling us ahead of time that the things we value and accumulate have no lasting value. So, why accumulate them? I kept my heart from no pleasure. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. The pursuit was impossible and meaningless. Jesus also warns us. But he does not give this as a matter of opinion or as an option. He commands us to not lay up treasures on earth. In verse 21 he will give us a greater reason for this, but in verse 20 he tells us that there are treasures we do need to accumulate. In the end, we will see that though these two types of treasures are completely different in nature, they are very closely related. Treasures In Heaven 6: It is human nature to pursue the accumulation of something. Jesus teaches that true disciples of his do not accumulate earthly treasures, but treasures for heaven. What does it mean to accumulate treasures in heaven? This transcends an earthly perspective of treasures. Jesus is not promising to give us our material possessions in our heavenly home. The end of verse 20 promises us that these heavenly treasures are incorruptible. No one can take them away. This is incomprehensible for people like us who are surrounded by a world where everything decays and dies. Souls are the one thing we recognize that live forever. Thus, the

accumulation of treasures for heaven is accomplished through actions that richen our spiritual souls. Just as there is a broad range of ways we can accumulate treasures on earth, there is a wide range of ways we can accumulate heavenly treasures. I liked the way one person described the accumulation of spiritual treasures. This also helps us draw a clearer line between accumulating treasures on earth and accumulating treasures in heaven. Anything that does not cultivate our rich spiritual blessings in Christ is an earthly treasure that we must not accumulate. Everything subject to corruption is off the list. Everything eternal is on it. The beauty is that Jesus removes a lesser treasure and offers a greater treasure. He does not take away the better treasure and offer a lesser one. He lovingly shows us that we have busied ourselves with the task of accumulating junk. He lovingly shows us that we can busy ourselves with the task of accumulating wealth in which we can trust. Unlike powerless stockbrokers who promise guaranteed returns, Christ is the king with the authority and power to make this promise. There is no limit or expiration date on the spiritual treasures we can pile up. But how sad for us to wear the name of Christ and miss what he calls us to. Laying up treasures in heaven is not accomplished by external religion. Laying up treasures in heaven is not a hobby. Week after week we put in our time at a building. Week after week we study our Bibles and say our prayers. All along, our spiritual bank accounts may be empty. Jesus does not tell us to stop laying up treasures on earth so that we can go to church and read our bibles. Jesus tells us to stop laying up treasures on earth so that we can lay up treasures elsewhere. Participating in worship and reading our Bibles has the opportunity to build up treasures in heaven, but it does not do so automatically. When we come here out of habit or coercion, there is no deposit. When we come here and think about something else or do not learn and praise God with our entire hearts, there is no deposit. Our souls are not cultivated. We have not grown richer. We have not helped others grow richer. We are not treasuring the true treasure. We are performing rituals. Notice the reason why Jesus is so concerned about where we accumulate treasures in verse Our Hearts Are with Our Treasure 6: Our hearts are located with our treasure. This answer refutes anyone who still believes there is nothing wrong with accumulating treasures on earth. Where he sees accumulation, he sees our hearts. The answer tells us where our hearts are. We are lying to ourselves if we think we have a heart for God when the things we treasure are right here on earth. We cannot love our treasures here and have a heart for God no matter how much we say we love God. Our hearts follow our treasure. If we are accumulating treasures on earth, our hearts are not with the Lord.

**Chapter 9 : Matthew - Locating The Real Treasure**

*Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. English Standard Version but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

Jesus instructs His followers to cultivate a heaven-focused heart by laying up their treasure in heaven. It often amazes me how God guides us along in what we study, and brings us to passages that are remarkably relevant to the times in which we live. What is one of the most controversial matters on the news today? Some are asking whether Social Security can be saved at all. Some say the system is very necessary. Others say that the whole system was a mistake. Everyone has an opinion and a personal interest in the matter. And many people who hear all the discussion between the politicians and experts worry about what will be there for them in the future. Instead, He goes above and beyond it all to what really matters - not just about Social Security, but about any form of earthly treasure in which we place our trust. He talks about the condition of our hearts in it all, and gives us the wisest and best counsel we could ever receive. He spoke to His followers and said; "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! You cannot serve God and mammon" Matthew 6: Have you ever wondered what it means? It referred to what someone entrusted to someone else to keep for a time to come in which it would be needed - very much along the lines of what Social Security is meant to be. We who are familiar with the Bible are accustomed to thinking of the word "mammon" in a negative way; but it was not originally understood negatively. In fact, an ancient rabbi once used the word "mammon" when he wrote, "Let the property [that is, the mammon] of thy fellow be dear to thee as thine own. It came to be something that someone allowed to take the primary place in their lives - a place that should only be occupied by God Himself. This negative sense of "mammon" is what Jesus is speaking of. But Jesus is doing more than warning us against the dangers of a misplaced trust in laying up treasures for ourselves on earth. It is the key principle, in fact, of the whole rest of chapter 6. But it can also refer to the place in which we keep that which is precious to us - that is, as a "storehouse" or a "treasury" Matthew I believe that, in verses , Jesus is using the word in the sense of the things that we store up as precious to ourselves; but that, in this verse, Jesus is using the word in the sense of a "storehouse" or "treasury". And of course, in speaking of the place in which our treasures are stored, He is also speaking - by implication - of the treasures themselves. Jesus obviously means more than simply the muscle that pumps in our chests. He is speaking of the very center of our being - the seat of our emotions, our wishes, and our will. He is speaking of that in us that longs and desires after something. He is speaking of that in us which loves a "treasure" so much that it moves our entire being to seek after it. You might say that our hearts are like the needle of a compass; and that needle is always pointing in the direction of that place in which our treasure is kept. What is our "treasure"? If our treasure is of earthly things and is kept in earthly treasuries, then the longings of our hearts will never rise higher than earth. And if our treasure is of spiritual things and is kept in heavenly places, then our hearts will be in heaven even though we ourselves are still walking upon this world. And that leads me to a suggestion of what our "treasure" is supposed to be. Our treasure is to be - above all else - Jesus Himself. He Himself is to be our rich treasure. And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides You" Psalm Clearly there is more involved in our heavenly "treasure" than Jesus alone. We are also promised "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. We may not know all that lays before us in heaven. But whatever else our inheritance will involve, the most important treasure - our chief treasure - is the Person of Jesus Christ Himself. He Himself will be our greatest delight forever. No other treasure will matter to us above Him. And the point is that, when Jesus is our "treasure", and because He - our treasure - is in heaven, then our hearts are naturally inclined toward the place where He is. In Psalm 63, he similarly wrote of how having the

Lord as his treasure became his motivation: This verse, then, gives us the key to all that Jesus is telling us in this passage. Where your treasure is [that is, that place in which is kept that which you most value], there your heart [your devotion, your longing, your desire, the compass-needle of your life] will be also. Does it point toward heaven? Or does it point toward earth? This leads us, then, to. The first thing that Jesus teaches us is that we are not to lay up our treasures on earth. In verse 19, He tells us, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth" - or, literally, "Do not treasure-up your treasure on earth. It was a sign of great wealth to possess many fine garments - just as it is today. But just as garments are subject to being spoiled by moths today, it was even more so then. Even if someone stored up many fine garments for the future, there would be no guarantee that those fine garments would still have their value when it came time to enjoy them. And the same was true for other tangible possessions. They were subject to "rust". It may refer to the corrosion and spoiling of anything that sits around for a long period of time. It may also refer to the fact that what you store up for yourself will eventually be consumed - even if it is consumed by you yourself. No matter how hard you try to preserve earthly things for the future, they will still be subject to rotting and spoiling and being eaten away. This fact is a cause of great condemnation in the Bible toward those who get rich in an evil way, and who store up earthly treasures for themselves to the hurt of others. The apostle James clearly drew many of his thoughts from the Sermon on The Mount; and among those thoughts was this: Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days James 5: Jesus urges us not to lay up treasures for ourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy. And even if we were able to protect those things from moths and corrosion, they are still in great risk; because earthly treasure-houses are places where "thieves can break in and steal". You can store up great earthly treasures for yourself, and spend much of that treasure trying to defend the store-house from theft; and even still, a thief may steal it all. The point of all this is that earth is not the place to lay up your treasures. Jesus told us the parable of the rich fool. He became prosperous; and so he built great barns to store up all his crops and goods. He said to his own soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry". He was a very clever man in the eyes of this world. He built an outstanding treasure for himself on the earth. But God spoke to him and said, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided? And Jesus warned us, "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" Luke But still, he lost it all. And this reminds us that all the treasure that we may store on the earth is always temporary. None of it can be kept for very long - even at best. And if someone lays up his treasure in a temporary storehouse subject to moth and rust and theft, then his heart is going to always be oriented toward that which will disappoint him in the end and cause him to suffer loss. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" v. Heaven is the safest place to keep your treasures. I read a story about the famous Bible commentator and preacher Matthew Henry. He was robbed once of everything that he owned. Later, he wrote these words of prayer in his diary: If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory Col. When such a man or woman suffers the loss of their earthly goods, it simply motivates them to turn their attention - with gratitude - toward heaven, where their real treasures are safely stored. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" v. And so, by keeping our treasures in heaven, we cultivate a heaven-ward heart. People will look upon us and clearly see that we have invested ourselves somewhere else then on earth. They see us as people whose hearts are in heaven long before we ourselves arrive there. Jesus teaches us about those two dangers in the verses that follow.