

Sermon on the Mount
Lesson #14
“Kingdom Cautions”
Beware of becoming materialistic Part II
Matthew 6:19-21

Scripture: Matthew 5:20 *“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Introduction:

The first time I saw Steve Irwin (You know the Crocodile Guy) he had his face a couple of inches away from one of the most deadly snakes in the world. He claimed to love animals with every fiber of his being. Later he decided to go swimming with electric eels...well it killed him.

Then a friend of mine told me about a great lady named Dawn Brancheau, a whale trainer who loved whales very much was killed by one of them named Tillikum at Sea World's Shamu Stadium in Orlando, Florida.

CNN reported that: The 40-year-old woman, was in the whale holding area about 2 p.m. when "she apparently slipped or fell into the tank and was fatally injured by one of the whales," he said. But a witness told CNN affiliate WKMG-TV that the whale approached the glass side of the 35-foot-deep tank at Shamu Stadium, jumped up and grabbed the trainer by the waist, shaking her so violently that her shoe came off.

Transitional Statement:

If ever we can learn a spiritual lesson...it would be that if we love the wrong thing it can destroy us. Church, we surely need to guard what our heart is set on

I. Jesus begins by telling us not to store up earthly treasures.

Matthew 6:19

"Do not..."

- A. Jesus began chapter six by simply saying "*beware*"
- B. Now He changes His tone altogether.
 - 1. He pulls away from caution and says "*do not*"
 - a. This statement comes with some force
 - b. Simply meaning don't get anywhere near
 - 1) The trainer at Sea World that was killed by the killer whale the other day gives us a real good idea about staying away from certain things.

"store up for yourselves"

- A. This "*store up*" that Jesus is talking about means to gather up, heap up, or to accumulate things.
 - 1. Specifically, "*for yourselves*"
- B. Last fall I watched one particular squirrel out in the yard that was gathering nuts for the winter. First of all I thought it quite unusual how many nuts he could hold in his mouth. His mouth looked like a baseball. Then the other squirrels were chasing him around like it was a fight to the death for those nuts.
 - 1. The fact is that God gave these squirrels a sense and ability to provide for themselves through the winter.
- C. But here Jesus tells us not to store up for ourselves.
 - 1. This isn't anything new in scripture. God demanded the same of Israel in regard to the manna in the desert. They weren't to store up the manna....but have faith in God to provide their daily needs. (Ex 16:16ff)
 - a. In the Lord's prayer in (Matt 6:11) Jesus shows us by saying "*give us this day our daily bread*" that on a daily basis we should let God fill our needs.
 - 2. Abraham learned this in full on Mount Moriah when he was ready to sacrifice his son Isaac and the Lord stopped him and provided a substitutionary ram, Abraham call that place Jehova Jireh ...meaning God will provide. (Gen 22)
- D. And in the story of the rich land owner Jesus shows us that storing up for ourselves is futile.

Luke 12:16-21

16 And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. 17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, ' You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' 21 "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

1. The proverb writer in chapter 49:17 reminds us that we can't take anything with us.

E. Jesus is calling us to a faith outside of ourselves

1. His plea for us is that God be our provision and our satisfies faction

treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

A. About eleven years ago we made a treasure box for our home. In the treasure box is old pacifiers and children teeth. Generally things that would mean nothing to others but are irreplaceable to us.

1. During our younger years our home begin to grow and along the way we eventually got televisions, stereos, lots of kitchen gadgets, much furniture....and I have more tools than I can shake a stick at.
 - a. Six or seven years ago, I begin to feel uneasy about all these accumulated things that I had amassed. Instead of pleasure they became a ball and chain of responsibility. The maintenance alone on all these things consumed all my time and I became weary beneath the load.

- 1) You know earthly treasures are like that, at best they are fleeting and fill only a moment of pleasure.

2. Earthly treasures are subject to:

a. Earthly treasures are subject to Moths

- 1) You know the thing about moths are, you don't know they are there until they have chewed a big hole in your favorite sweater.

- a) As hard as you might try, in the evening, drawn by our porch lights, they fly in when the door is opened.

- 2) Basically external forces that we have no control over.

b. Earthly treasures are subject to Rust

- 1) Many car buyers don't want to buy cars from northern regions of our country including here in Iowa because all the road salt causes vehicles to rust out.
 - a) Rust is basically the natural tendency for metal to break down and return to its original form which is simply ferrous nodules found in the ground outside.
 - b) When sodium chloride (Salt) comes into contact with bare metal it sets off a chain of chemical reaction which is very hard to stop.
2. And rust, as we all know, like a cancer spreads quickly.

c. Earthly treasures are subject to Thieves.

1. Earthly treasures often times promote jealousy desires and even become pawns for thieves to fill their own desires.
 - a) When we were younger (A couple of years ago) someone broke into our house and stole a lot of my earthly treasures.
 - b) I was so mad that I couldn't see straight and over time with much thought I realized the futility of caring so much for earthly temporal possessions.

B. Read with me James 5:1-4

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!"

- C. Jesus wants us to look through spiritual eyes and see the things that are really important, and not get hung up on the wanting pleasures of this life.

II. But, Jesus tells us to store up treasures in heaven

Matthew 6:20

20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;"

- A. When we put our treasures in a safe deposit box, we can go and pull them out and look at them and use them at our will.

1. But here Jesus tells us to think beyond our immediate senses. He encourages us, first of all, to make treasures of things suitable for the spiritual realm.

- a. For instance in the spiritual realm there will be no motorcycles, fishing poles, power tools, gold, silver etc.
 - b. You won't find the treasures of heaven on the Antique Road Show or the Pawn Stars
2. The treasures of heaven are formulated in the quite life of a Christian striving desperately to be transformed by God's desires.
- a. You see, heavenly treasures flow from the fruit of the Spirit...Gal 5:22ff
 - 1) Love
 - 2) Joy
 - 3) Peace
 - 4) Patience
 - 5) Kindness
 - 6) Goodness
 - 7) Faithfulness
 - 8) Gentleness
 - 9) Self Control
 - b. Heavenly treasures have one common thread for sure:
 - 1) They look away from person desire to focus on God.
 - 2) They deny self ...Matthew 16:24
 - c. And the greatest of all thoughts here is the freedom from temporal corruption that heavenly treasures bring.

B. You see temporal things, cannot carry us through eternity.

- 1. They are merely matters of selfishness

III. Where your treasure is....your heart will follow.

Matthew 6:21

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

A. Here Jesus gives us the greatest of profound truth.

- 1. The things we hold dear in our hearts, always draw us in their direction

B. Jesus found this problem in a rich young man in Matthew 19:16-24

"And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" 17 And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 Then he said to Him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE

WITNESS; 19 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER; and YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

23 And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

1. The young man had great wealth and a desire for eternal life
 - a. And when Jesus told him how to obtain eternal life and be complete.
 - 1) The young mans true treasure was revealed
 - 2) His personal desires in the earthly realm were found to be more important than his eternal soul.

Conclusion:

Today, I think the Lord would simply ask....where is your heart?

-Are you living toward an earthly end?

-Or are you storing up treasures in your eternal home?