

Parent Study Guide – Bonus Verse 2010-11

THE TREASURE OF HEAVEN – Matthew 6:24

Passage: *No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.*
-- Matthew 6:24 (NIV84)

Theme: THE TREASURE OF HEAVEN – We cannot serve both God and earthly possessions.

Metaphor: THE MASTER OF OUR HEART IS LIKE A TREASURE – It shows us where our heart is.

Message: THERE WILL ALWAYS BE TWO TREASURES -- but we can only serve one.

Action: TREASURE WHAT IS ETERNAL -- the treasure that cannot be destroyed, lost or stolen.

Discussion Questions: Answers are Underlined

1. What does the entire chapter of Matthew 6 talk about? – The things we treasure.
2. What two treasures does Jesus talk about in Matt.6:19-20? – Treasure on earth & treasure in heaven – treasure that is temporal & treasure that is eternal.
3. Why did Elijah say not to “waver between two opinions” (1 Kings 18:21)? – You can only serve one master, one God, one Creator.
4. What is your earthly treasure (horizontal treasure)? – My relationship with creation (the world, some created thing).
5. What is the problem with earthly treasure? – It can be destroyed and thieves can steal it.
6. Why is “Money” capitalized (Matt.6:24)? – It means earthly wealth or possessions (Mammon in KJV – from a word probably associated with an ancient God of earthly wealth).
7. What is your heavenly treasure (vertical treasure)? – My relationship with the Creator (God).
8. What is the value of heavenly treasure? – It is the only thing that will satisfy us and never be lost. It is what we were designed for, a relationship with God.
9. How does treasure become a master (Matt.6:21)? – It’s becomes the object of our longing. It’s where our heart is.
10. How do you store up heavenly treasure? – By pursuing God to know Him and serve Him.

Biblical and Theological Themes:

1. Man was designed for a relationship with the Creator -- made in God's image (Gen. 1:26).
2. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil offered man the opportunity to choose the Creator rather than creation (Gen. 2:15-17).
3. Man's attempt to be satisfied with the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (believing the lie that a created thing could satisfy his longing instead of the Creator) damaged that relationship with God (Gen. 3:8).
4. Man continues to pursue God-substitutes in the created world (Isa. 44:9-20 and Jer. 10:1-16).
5. God has always intended that the things we treasure will reveal our heart (Luke 12:34).
6. God does not say that we should not have earthly treasure, but only that it should not be our master (Luke 16:13-15).
7. God intends that we seek Him first and all the other things we need will be added (Luke 12:30-31).

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the "Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life," go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.