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A Closer Look at Treasure in Heaven; Matt 19:23-30

GPBC

5.2.21

Introduction – Last week we looked at Jesus’ conversation with the rich young man. The difference between this young man finding life eternal in Christ and walking away empty on the path of eternal death all came down to one thing – his wealth. He valued his earthly treasure above all that God promised him in Christ. So we asked ourselves last week, what do we still lack? If we remain apart from Christ, what’s the one thing that is keeping us from possessing true, abundant, and eternal life? As believers we had to ask ourselves, what’s the one thing that’s keeping us from growing in Christ and knowing the fullness of joy and life in Him?

Today we’re looking at the follow up conversation Jesus had with His disciples. When we’re examining our faith in Christ or absence of faith in Christ, that one thing may be difficult to pinpoint and determine. It’s become so much a part of our lives, we don’t even think to evaluate it. We’ve made so many excuses, we’ve grown accustomed to it for so long, and we’ve considered it unharmed to our spiritual lives. We need help to identify that one thing by realizing what we’re giving up in Christ by clinging to it. May God open our eyes to the difference between what we treasure in this life as opposed to what God has in store for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

- I. Never Underestimate the Powerful Sway of Earthly Treasure (vv23-24)
 - a. Now our one thing could be a spiritually hindering relationship or a sinful habit or anything that matters more to us than Christ. But since this young man’s one thing was wealth, let’s be sure we understand just how powerful a hold on our lives possessions can have.
 - b. V23 – It is a very difficult path for a rich person to follow. It’s extremely hard for a person of wealth to clearly see that treasure in heaven far surpasses and far outweighs and far outlasts and far more satisfies his soul than his portfolio.
 - i. Wealth can be very powerfully misleading and blindingly deceptive. You don’t have to be wealthy to be deceived by wealth. The pursuit of one more dollar is just as deceptive as having one more dollar. A comfortable nest egg provides a false sense of security and comfort. Monetary security allows

one a measure of freedom to come and go as he pleases, to not be overwhelmed by unexpected expenses, and to obtain pleasurable pursuits, and more. Wealth has the ability to promise a better life.

- ii. What wealth doesn't tell you is that the more you have, the more you worry about keeping it. It also doesn't tell you that the freedom offered by wealth to obtain the things you want increase dramatically your proneness to indulge sinful pleasures. It also doesn't tell you that fortune easily becomes your god. It possesses you rather than you possessing it.

- 1. Eccl 5:10-12

- 2. 1 Tim 6:10 – For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

III. Reading wills

- c. So there are many benefits that wealth can provide, but there are also many dangers. And the most dangerous of all is when we cling to our wealth to the detriment and possible destruction of our spiritual life.
- d. Now there are many wealthy men in the Bible who did love the Lord. Job loved the Lord and he was wealthy. Abraham loved the Lord and he was wealthy. David loved the Lord and he was wealthy. But it's not easy. When you're wealthy there is a constant battle to treasure Christ more and keep Christ first.
- e. In v24 Jesus explains what he means by difficulty. In other words, it's more difficult than you think. It's actually impossible. A wealthy man in his own strength and sinful nature will never arrive at the conclusion that Christ is so far better he is willing to lose it all for the sake of Christ. That's exactly what happened with the rich young man. He simply couldn't give up his one thing. And the same is true for us all – we simply don't have it within us to see that heaven's infinite treasure is more treasure than our meager, little, finite treasure – whether that's wealth or whatever our one thing is.
- f. And that's what leads to the next words in our text.

II. Saving Faith is a Miracle (vv25-26)

- a. The disciples were greatly astonished. They were taken back and baffled. Wait a minute, if this guy couldn't do it and look at all he had going for him. He was a good man. He loved his neighbor. He had everything he wanted. If he couldn't enter the kingdom, then who can be saved?
- b. And that was exactly the right question. You see an idol is an idol, no matter what it is – self, pride, pleasure, wealth, whatever. As sinners we've already given our lives to something. We are not going to let that go because we're already convinced that is the thing that gives us life and happiness and joy.
- c. That's why Jesus says, "With man this is impossible." Notice Jesus didn't say, "With that young man it is impossible." Or, "Just with rich men it is impossible." No, He said, "With man this is impossible." Man, a sinner, can never be saved in his own strength and by his own doing. We are not able to see that Christ is greater treasure than anything else in this life. Sin has blinded us from seeing the glory of God in Christ.
 - i. 2 Cor 4:3-4
- d. But Jesus goes on to say – praise be to God, Jesus goes on to say "but". In other words, yes it is true sin has such a grip on the heart that man will never be saved on his own, "but". As we are learning on Sunday nights, the gospel begins with bad news, but you have to come to grips with just how bad the bad news is before you can rejoice in just how wonderful and thrilling the good news is – but with God all things are possible.
 - i. You can't see the glory of Christ on your own, you'll never love Christ more than this world on your own, you will never believe and embrace and treasure Christ on your own – but God, by His grace, can open the eyes of your heart and pull back the veil of sin and shine the light of the gospel on your thirsty soul. Then you see that Christ is the Fountain of Life and your one thing is empty and nothing compared to Him. The you repent. The you believe. Then you are saved! All because of God's grace!
 - ii. 2 Cor 4:5-6
- e. God is able to do and will do what we can never do – save us!

- III. Heavenly Treasure Far Surpasses Any Earthly Treasure (vv27-29)
- a. Peter exclaims, “surely you mean us. See, we have left everything and followed you.” We have done exactly what the young man refused to do. We left it all and followed you. We believe you are the Son of God and knowing that we found it far better to be with you than to be with anything else.
 - b. You see the disciples’ faith was more than just words, more than just a decision. It was a whole new life of following Jesus. And that new life sprang from prizing Christ and loving Christ above everything else in this life.
 - c. So Peter wants to know. What will we have? Will we have eternal life? Will we enter the kingdom of heaven?
 - d. And Jesus’s reply is to say, you won’t only enter the kingdom of heaven and have eternal life. Far more awaits you than you can imagine. Read. Rev 22:5 says that for all who are in Christ, we will reign with Him forever and ever.
 - e. V29 – Jesus makes sure we know this promise is not reserved only for the twelve, but the surpassing value of heavenly treasure is for every believer.
 - i. Enslavement to possessions and idolizing familial bonds will keep millions of souls out of heaven. But for those who have left them for Christ, God has a treasure in store beyond what your soul can contain.
 - ii. Leaving possessions and family isn’t always literal. Most of the time it means putting them in second place and God in first place. Sometimes it is literal though. Just ask a foreign missionary what this verse means. We talked about 3 wealthy OT saints earlier. Job suffered the loss of possessions and family and health, and he still loved the Lord. Abraham left his country to go where God may lead because he loved God more. David was ran off the throne and out of town and the psalms testify that though he was broken, he was still believing.
 - f. The point here is that Jesus promises a hundredfold and eternal life. In other words, there is nothing you can give or sacrifice or leave or let go or put in its proper place that God’s reward in Christ will not

overcompensate a hundredfold. You will never give God more than He has given you in Christ!

Conclusion – 1 Cor 2:9