



Sermon on the Mount

Discuss – Why do you think people seek after material wealth and gain?
 How do you think God feels about the greed of people in the west?
 How do we know whether we are overstepping the mark between God’s blessing and greed?

Read – Matthew Ch 6 v 19 – 24

In these verse Jesus is clearly teaching those who would follow him, what their approach should be towards material wealth and pleasure. His focus is to stand against selfish and extravagant materialism and challenges anything that would bind you and me to this earth. Jesus compares the true, eternal treasures of heaven with the temporary trinkets of this world. He makes a profound statement to help us judge what is important to us when he says, “ For where you treasure is, there your heart is also.”

Discuss – What is the treasure that you hold onto in your life? What are the things you love first?
 What treasure do you think God what’s us to hold as most important in our lives?

Jesus links the idea of treasure with the idea of what focus you have in your life. This is what the story of the eye is all about. Someone who has a good spirit will be one who’s focus is on God and pleasing Him. This person will serve God and not mammon (mammon is the money God – who is said to support the whole system of materialism) As a result their life will be full of light, meaning and purpose.

Someone with a bad eye, a bad focus will be someone who is selfish, covetous and miserly. The result is that this person is left in darkness, frustrated and deprived of meaning.

As we can see this is not about a person being a Christian or not a Christian, but is about a person with a right focus against a person with a wrong focus in life. A big part of this focus is about loyalty and what is the motivating factors in our live.

Discuss this quote (true or false)

“ Many Christians today deny themselves intimacy with God because they live more for the world then for Him. Jesus summed up the commandments with these words. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and strength and love your neighbour as yourself. To often today Christians love themselves and their possessions before they love their God.”

Read– Matthew Ch 6 verses 25 – 34

Discuss – What do you think are the reasons why even Christians worry so much about everyday life?
 What advice do you think these verses gives us about overcoming worry?
 How do you think we can encourage each other to live lives free from excess worry?

On the back of seeking after material gain, Jesus highlights the need for us to trust God. There is a sense within this that part of our seeking after the world is because we do not trust God to take care of and provide for us. Jesus says that if we are single hearted in our devotion to God then He will deal with helping us overcome anxieties over daily needs.

Jesus gives us 3 reasons why worrying is worthless:-

Unnecessary (26, 28 – 30)

Unfruitful (27)

Unbecoming to a Christian (31 – 32)

He then highlights the fact that the foundation of our lives should be to seek God first and His righteousness and all of what we need will be added to us. In other words if we are faithful in our relationship with Him, He pledges Himself to covenant faithfulness, and will respond by adding all things to us that we need.

Discuss – what do you think it means to seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? How do we do it today?
 When new Christians come to faith how do you think we can help them trust God right from the start and live simple lives of faith?

Being a Christian is a life focusing on simple trust and confidence in God. Jesus set us an example of that simple trust in action and then called his disciples to follow that example. If we believe in a God who cares and loves us then we need to live that out in our daily lives. Words come easy – but what Jesus says here is that a real Christian will live by faith and