

TEMPORAL VS. ETERNAL

MATTHEW 6:19-24

The kingdom of heaven is worth infinitely more than the cost of discipleship, and those who know where the treasure lies joyfully abandon everything else to secure it.

-DA Carson

I. The Disciple's Motivation

II. The Disciple's Guide

III. The Disciple's Master

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. What item do you possess that others would see little value in but is precious to you?

Into the Bible

2. Our culture teaches us that happiness can be bought by acquiring more material wealth or getting the right possessions in life. Christians are taught to reject that idea, so our idolatry is more subtle. We often find our security and/or our sense of personal success and value in what we have worked for. What do the following verses say about where we should be finding these things: Philippians 1:6, II Corinthians 1:21-22, Philippians 3:13-14?

3. Although the rich take some harsh criticism in Scripture, the real issue seems not to be the possession of wealth but one of motivation in pursuing it. Medieval writers interpreted “mammon” as the spirit of greedy pursuit of wealth. Read I Timothy 6:6-11 and Proverbs 30:7-9. Is being rich a sin, or being poor a virtue?

Application

4. Verses 22&23 of Matthew 6 seem to refer to spiritual blindness and this is often associated with the unsaved, but in Revelation 3:17 Christ chastises his own church for its failure to admit its blindness. Read John 8:12 and John 9:39. How do we keep from succumbing to spiritual cataracts—blindness brought on by a clouding of our spiritual vision?

5. Divided loyalty never works well. We need to know who and what we serve. In Romans 1:1 Paul introduces himself as the “slave” (*doulos*) of Christ, a term the Romans would know and understand. In I Corinthians 6:19-20 he makes clear why he uses this term for himself. Read Matthew 10:37-39. Why is this level of submission so important to a Christ-follower?

For Families

6. Talk with your children about their value to you and their value to God.