

Where Your Treasure Is

By Dale Babinsky

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus offers a challenge to the human heart. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-20). These verses are not merely a warning against materialism—they are a call to consider the affections and desires of the heart.

Earthly Wealth Fades Away

Jesus begins with a contrast. Earthly treasures are vulnerable because moths can consume, rust will corrode, and thieves break in and steal. In a world where possessions can vanish overnight, the pursuit of security through material wealth is extremely hazardous. But the deeper issue is not the treasure itself—it's the heart's attachment to it. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). The location of our treasure reveals the focus of our hearts.

The Eye as the Lamp

Jesus then uses another metaphor to explain, saying, "The eye is the lamp of the body." A healthy eye—generous, clear in purpose—fills the whole body with light. But an unhealthy eye—stingy, clouded by greed—plunges the soul into darkness. This imagery suggests that our spiritual vision, our way of seeing material things, determines whether we walk in light or darkness. The Greek word for healthy here implies generosity, while the word for unhealthy implies selfishness.

We Must Choose

Jesus concludes with a stark reality: "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). The word translated as mammon is money or wealth, a term that personifies wealth as a rival deity (the almighty dollar, if you will). Divided loyalty is impossible. Our heart/mind will inevitably choose one master over the other.

This passage invites us to examine not just our bank accounts, but also our desires, our focus, and our allegiance. What do we treasure? What fills our vision? Whom do we serve? In a culture that prizes accumulation and wealth as a sign of success, Jesus' words are countercultural. They call for us to invest in that which is eternal—acts of mercy, love, obedience, and faith. These are the treasures that neither moth nor rust can corrupt.

- Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ, Pigeon Forge, TN (via *Bulletin Gold*) -



"A right heart exceeds all." - Poor Richard's Almanac, 1739

News Notes

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Canceled until further notice.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each Thursday. No classes on Dec. 25th or Jan 1st.

BIBLE STUDY CHANGES: Tuesday, Dec. 23d, 7:00 p.m. instead of Wednesday Dec. 24th. Also, NO Bible Study Wednesday Dec. 31st, but we will meet for a Fellowship Breakfast & Devotional Jan. 1st. 9:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Bldg.

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: SICK & SHUT-IN: *At Home:* Randy Beagle, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). *Serra Manor, Weirton:* Jean Haught (Skip's mother). *Fox, Chester:* Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

ALSO REMEMBER THESE WITH HEALTH ISSUES: Christy Claypool, 204 Rio Pinar Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088. Jackie Brown (Rico's mother), 4227 Prince Hall Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811.

SERVANTS

By David Bragg

You may not recognize the name Polly Thomson. Born in 1885 in Scotland, a chance conversation with her hairdresser led to a new job. Following the death of Anne Sullivan Macy in 1936, Miss Thomson became the assistant/companion of Helen Keller. Altogether, Polly Thomson made many significant sacrifices to live the last 46 years of her life as a true servant.

Servants are special because they have the courage to step across that invisible line between selfishness and selflessness. No better example of this will ever be found than that of Jesus Christ. Paul paints the picture for us in Philippians 2:5-11. He left Heaven to walk the earth as a man. Our human mind can't fully grasp the significance of that sacrifice. But then, He suffered and died for sin; not His, but yours, ours! This also exceeds our ability to comprehend.

Helen Keller was able to do many good things in her final years because of the sacrifices of Polly Thomson. Jesus can do many things through us, if we have the courage to step across that line with Jesus and sacrifice selfishness and selflessly serve. - *Bulletin Gold*