

“What’s Next Message Series: Motives #2”

Sunday, June 9, 2024 @ 10:30AM | Worship Center

Matthew 6:16-24 (ESV): “¹⁶And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴“No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.”



Jesus calls His followers to constantly check our motives, especially through acts of worship and through our relationship with Him. He continues to address the believer’s motivation and reveals the core factors of where our treasures are stored, on earth or in heaven.

“Fasting was the third major religious activity in the life of a Jewish person. It specifically was abstaining from food for spiritual reasons. It lasted from dawn to sunset daily during the designated period of the fast. For Jews, in Jesus’ day, there was only one mandatory fast and that was on the Day of Atonement. According to Leviticus 16:31, on that day the people had to fast from morning to evening. The Jews also made great use of private fasting. It was connected with mourning, it was an act of national penitence, and it was used in preparation for revelation from God.” – William Barclay

Notice Three Implications:

- **When our motives are not centered on God and our personal relationship with Him, our spiritual lives will be out of sync. (Matthew 6:16-18)**

“... fasting lasted from dawn to sunset; outside that time normal meals could be eaten.” – Barclay

"Fasting to concentrate on some spiritually worthy purpose seems perfectly legitimate today. It is optional for a disciple of Christ, and it may be helpful if done as Jesus taught. Abstinence from anything that is legitimate in and of itself for the sake of some special purpose also seems reasonable." – Martin Lloyd – Jones

- **Where we "store up" our treasures, either in heaven or earth, will determine the affection of our lives. (Matthew 6:19-23)**

"There are certain pleasures which inevitably lose their attraction as a man grows older. It may be that he is physically less able to enjoy them; it may be that as his mind matures, they cease in any sense to satisfy him." – Barclay

"What does it mean to lay up treasures in heaven? It means to use all that we have for the glory of God. It means to 'hang loose' when it comes to the material things of life. It also means measuring life by the true riches of the kingdom and not by the false riches of this world." – Warren Wiersbe

- **Treasures on earth and treasures in heaven will both demand total devotion, and we must choose which one will be our master. (Matthew 6:24)**

"A man will not go far wrong, if he uses his possessions to see how much happiness he can bring to others." – Barclay