

Matthew 6:14-24

Verses 14-15

These verses do not teach that those whom God justifies through faith and forgives their sins will then withdraw His forgiveness. All that He justifies (legally declares righteous by faith alone), He glorifies. As God has forgiven us, we are to forgive others. We are not only to forgive, but also we are not to hold wrongs performed against us to the person's account after we forgive (don't hold it over their head once it is forgiven). Although our sins are forgiven and covered and there is no condemnation, we are still commanded to live a life of repentance and seeking forgiveness for our sins. This allows us to be cleansed daily to ensure proper fellowship with God. When we don't seek forgiveness our fellowship including prayer, worship, study, and witnessing can be impacted. Jesus is teaching us to forgive as He forgives and when we don't our fellowship with God can be impacted until we do. Those who truly understand God's forgiveness upon them will extend forgiveness to others. Christians are to be the most kind and forgiving people on the planet.

- **Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven ^[a]you.

Verses 16-18

At the start of Matthew 6, Jesus taught how to give and how to pray. He taught that when one gives or prays, they are not to seek recognition, praise, and honor by men and to be seen by men as this is the wrong motives for performing such acts. Motives matter in our daily actions. However, Jesus teaches that when we give and pray, we are to be as private as we can be as we are not to desire recognition or praise from men. We are to give and pray with the right motives as we look to please, honor, and glorify God with our actions. Jesus will teach on fasting using the same instruction He already did on giving and fasting. The Pharisees would fast for the wrong reasons as their motives were selfish and sinful. They fasted to be seen by men so that they would think they were the religious elites. They put on an outward show for others to see how miserable they were in their fasting by putting on a gloomy face and neglecting their appearance. This was intended to bring attention and praise to themselves. Just as He did with giving and praying, Jesus teaches that when we fast we are to look and behave were no one would know we are fasting. True fasting is to seek and honor God and not to seek praise and glory from men by religious actions. God knows the hearts and the motives. God will reward those who give, pray, and fast sincerely.

- **Isaiah 29:13** Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their ^[a]words And honor Me with their ^[a]lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their ^[a]reverence for Me ^[a]consists of ^[a]tradition learned *by rote*,

Verses 19-21

As Christians we are not to store up for ourselves treasures on earth. The things of this world are temporal and perishable. However, as Christians we are to store up for ourselves treasures in Heaven. Scripture teaches that we will have treasures in the form of rewards for our works. Our works do not merit salvation but are rewarded by God. We are storing up treasures with obedience.

- "In crowning our merits, God is crowning His own gifts." – Augustine

The Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure

- **Matthew 13:44-46** "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The greatest treasure we have in Heaven is God Himself as we will see Him as He is and dwell with Him forever. Our inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away. Our inheritance of our eternal home and eternal life will never fade, rust, or be stolen. Our inheritance is being guarded by God Himself. Our inheritance is reserved for us and we are being reserved for our inheritance.

- **1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Believers are to store up treasures in heaven. Those who are lost are storing up not treasures in Heaven, but wrath against that day.

- **Romans 2:5-8** But ^[a]because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who will render to each person according to his deeds: ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.
- **Luke 12:13-21**- Parable on covetousness and wealth

One's treasure will reveal the status of the heart. Where your treasure is where, your heart will be also.

Verses 22-23

Jesus uses an analogy to continue to teach that as a Christian, one's gaze, focus, and attention should be on God, His kingdom, and the Heavenly treasures rather than on earthly material things. If our eyes are fixed on the things of God, our souls are illumined by the light of God's treasures. On the contrast, if one's eyes are fixed on the wealth and material possessions of this world, the heart will be contaminated and filled with darkness. The focus on one's gaze shows the heart and one's treasures.

The word clear in the Greek is haplous.

haploús (haploós) – properly, healthy, whole *unfolded, single* – literally, "without folds" (J. Thayer), referring to a *single (undivided) focus*, i.e. without a (secret) "double agenda" which prevents an over-complicated life (becoming needlessly distracted). [See 572 \(haplotēs\)](#). [573 \(haploús\)](#) is the antonym of the Greek term *diploús* meaning, "double." *MM* notes in the papyri that [573 \(haploús\)](#) likewise means, "simple" (*uncompounded, single*).

As Christians we are to have our eyes fixed on Heavenly things which are eternal rather than the temporal material wealth and possessions of this world. We are not to be double minded between the things of this world and of God, but rather single minded on the things of God. Also, as Christians we are to be giving. If one is desiring the things of the world and is greedy, giving as God commands is impacted.

- **Proverbs 28:22** A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth And does not know that want will come upon him.
- **1 Timothy 6:7-10** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸ If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all ^[a]sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.
- **2 Corinthians 4:18** while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- **Ephesians 1:18** *I pray that the eyes of your heart ^[a]may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the ^[b]saints,*

We can look at our attitude on wealth, money, and material things and see the true condition of our hearts.

Verse 24

No one can serve two masters. You can not serve wealth and God. Serving wealth and God are incompatible.

- **Luke 16:13** No ^[a]servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and ^[b]wealth."
- **Matthew 19:16-22**- Rich young ruler

Every Christian has the most precious and priceless treasures that any creature can ever have: salvation, eternal life, dwelling with God, and an inheritance in our eternal home. In a world that values and seeks after wealth and material things, let us keep our gaze fixed upon the Kingdom of Heaven where our treasures are being stored up. On treasure maps "x marks the spot" of where the treasure is found. The map we have is God's Holy Word and we know exactly where our treasure is located. Our treasure is found in Christ and the Kingdom of God to where our treasures are being stored up and kept. So let us persevere following the map of God's Word with our eyes fixed upon our eternal home. One day we will reap the bounty of these treasures as we dwell forever with God. We can be confident that our treasures and our inheritance will not rust, fade, or be stolen as they are being kept by God omnipotent. Not only is He keeping our inheritance for us, but He is keeping us for our inheritance and treasure! For where treasure is, there will your heart be also.

