

WEEK 13 | MATTHEW 6:19-24

A BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM

As believers in Jesus Christ, and citizens of His Kingdom, we have the unique responsibility to reflect the glory of God to a watching world. In this series, we are studying Jesus's words in the Sermon on the Mount, considering what it means to flourish under His rule and reign, and live as His representatives where we work, live, and play. In chapter 6, Jesus addresses how our private motivations are connected to our public demonstrations of faith.

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful as you consider this text.

- **Mark 8:34-38**
- **Mark 10:17-31**
- **Psalm 24:1-2**
- **James 1:16-18**

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of this week's Scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group?
2. Who has influenced your attitude toward "treasure"? How would you characterize your attitude toward it?
3. Read Matthew 5:20. How does your faith in Jesus affect your outlook on "treasure"?
4. Read v. 21. Consider the way you relate to money, material items, etc. How would you rate yourself? Are there things that occupy more space and time than they should? If you're comfortable, share why.
5. Read vv. 19-20. Reflect on your current habits revolving around money and material items. What story do you think your habits tell about what's important to you?
6. Read Psalm 24:1-2 and James 1:16-18. A key theme in the Scripture is that God, as Creator, has rightful claim of ownership to all things. Our role, as his beloved creatures, is to steward his resources wisely. Our money and things are gifts from above.

How does considering yourself a "steward" of God's resources strengthen or challenge your faith? What kind of stewardship habits do you practice? What do you feel the Lord challenging you to practice? Share with others.

7. Read vv. 22-24. It's important to remember that "the way people handle their finances affects every other part of their lives, either for good or for bad."¹ How have you experienced the freedom that comes with wise stewardship, and how have you felt the burden of poor/unwise stewardship?

PRAY TO CLOSE.

¹ Craig Blomberg, *Matthew*, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 123-124.