

YOU+ | Week 8 - Address Your Idols**Message Big Idea**

Disciples of Jesus disentangle themselves from the idolatry of wealth and possessions by seeking God's Kingdom first.

Scripture

Matthew 6:19-24

Points to Keep In Mind

1. The word for treasure in the New Testament's original language isn't just a noun referring to possessions; it suggests the accumulation of things as a focus of joy. He's talking about being driven by a desire to acquire. Jesus wants us to examine what kind of treasure we chase to find joy.

There are two kinds of treasure: earthly treasure and heavenly treasure. Earthly treasure is everything we acquire with cash and credit: new shoes, a bigger house, another book, or a nicer car. We all know that these things are temporary. At some point, every treasure on earth will no longer satisfy. And yet so often, we continue to chase after them mindlessly.

Jesus challenges us to value things that are eternal over temporal things. When Jesus calls us to pursue heavenly treasure, he's not discussing the afterlife. He's not saying, "Don't worry about this life—just get ready for the next one." When Jesus uses the word heaven, he refers to the realm where God is right now, and if you follow Jesus' way, you can have treasure in the present, not just in the future.
2. To understand what Jesus is saying about the "eye," we have to recognize that the words for "healthy" and "unhealthy" in the original language of the New Testament are words that were often used for "generous" and "stingy." If we substitute those meanings in the text, we'd hear Jesus say: "If your eyes are generous, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are stingy, your whole body will be full of darkness."
3. We also need to understand that today, we know the eye is an organ that allows light to pass into our bodies, making sight possible. However, in the ancient world, sight was thought to be a process where light passed out of the body through the eyes. Jesus is referencing this commonly held understanding to make his point: How we handle wealth and possessions reflects what is happening inside us. If we're filled with light, generosity will flow out of us. If we are filled with darkness, we will selfishly hold on to what we have and be stingy.
4. In the second metaphor about masters, Jesus says that sometimes the problem of wealth and possessions is what is going on inside of us. The way we handle our money and possessions is a direct reflection of what is in our hearts. If we find ourselves stingy and holding back on generosity, something inside us is a problem.
5. The Life Application section of the guide is designed to help your group members see the tension between our culture and Jesus' teaching on possession, to challenge us to simplify our pursuits, and practice sacrificial living. Those three steps will help us live a more Jesus-centered life.

Next Steps

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. Have you read the Community Daily recently? How is it encouraging you and challenging you? You can sign up at communitychristian.org/daily
5. If anyone in your small group is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/mentalhealth
6. Start your pre-work and sign up to have a YOU+ Conversation by visiting: youplus.info