

# NEW: FINDING YOUR HUMANITY

## NEW TREASURE

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – March 5, 2017

1. Read Matthew 6:19-24. Ask God the Holy Spirit to teach the us how to treasure Christ and not to treasure the good gifts He gives us.
2. Explain what Pastor Derwin meant when he said, "Whatever you treasure the most will be your motivation and inspiration and your source of significance and worth."
3. Read Matthew 6:19 and discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "Do NOT place a god-status on God's good gifts like clothing, food, homes, jobs, and money."

Note: "Treasures" In the ancient world wealth emanated from three sources: (1) clothing, (2) food stuffs and (3) precious metals or jewels. Each of these items may either be destroyed or stolen. Moths will attack clothing. Rust is from the root "to eat" or metaphorically "eat away" or "corrode" and was used of vermin eating food. Stealing referred to robbery of precious metals, jewels or the other two items. Basically this means that all of our worldly possessions are vulnerable. If one's happiness depends on possessions, one could lose them at any moment. (Utley, R. J. (2000). *The First Christian Primer: Matthew* (Vol. Volume 9, p. 56). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International).

4. Pastor Derwin taught, "Worship Jesus by appreciating His good gifts." What does this mean practically?
5. Read Matthew 6:21 and the following note and then discuss.

Note: It is significant that the PLURAL PRONOUN which has been used in the previous verses now changes to the SINGULAR. This section teaches the transitoriness of earthly things and the eternity of spiritual things. It also emphasizes that where one puts one's interest and energy truly reveals one's priorities. The heart (a Hebrew idiom) is the center of the person. It expresses the totality of one's self. (Utley, R. J. (2000). *The First Christian Primer: Matthew* (Vol. Volume 9, p. 56). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International.)

6. Jesus wants to be your greatest treasure. Will you let Him? Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-7 and discuss.
7. Read Matthew 6:22-24, Luke 12:15 and the following note. Discuss.

Note: The Pharisees had this problem because their spiritual eyes were diseased (Matt. 6:22). With their eyes they were coveting money and wealth. Thus they were in spiritual darkness. They were slaves to the master of greed, and their desire for money was so great they were failing in their service to their true Master, God. Money is the translation of the Aramaic word for "wealth or property," mamōna ("mammon," KJV). (Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). *Matthew*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 33). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.)

8. Read Matthew 6:30-33 and the follow note and discuss.

Note: Matthew 6:32 Jesus presents two further reasons to avoid worrying about food and clothing: Such concerns are the prerogative of the Gentiles (see v. 7), and God in His omniscience already knows the needs of His people. Members of the kingdom should not be concerned with these things since their heavenly Father is already aware of them.

Matthew 6:33 When people make God's kingdom their primary object of desire, they find the ability to trust Him to meet their needs. (Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Mt 6:32-33). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.)

**Soul-tattoo:** Ask God to reveal to you how you've allowed things and stuff to become a priority in your life.

Close in prayer.