

Sermon on the Mount - Pursuing Your Kingdom Life 16th March, 2015 - Small Group Questions

X Marks the Spot

Start your time off together by connecting with each other and catching up on what has been happening over the last week or so.

Please open in prayer asking the Spirit of God to move and guide your conversation.

X Marks the spot bumper <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AncreZdOs9U>

In Sunday's message I asked the church to do this...

"Today I want us to metaphorically pull out the map of our spiritual lives and take an honest look at the X's that are there. What X's are you pursuing, what X's are you digging for? I wonder what the X's reveal about your heart today."

- Can you remember any X's that I shared?
- If you're brave, share one X that you see on your life map.

Read together and out loud Matthew 6:19-24

In these verses Jesus GETS RIGHT TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER and he preaches about a number of everyday concerns that have the potential to deter the disciples from undivided loyalty to the kingdom and its righteousness.

This passage has 3 natural parts.

1. The 2 TREASURES of the HEART

v19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Please talk about the tension caused by these 2 treasures of the heart.

Money, wealth, and possessions have at least three primary purposes in Scripture:

- Can you recall what they are? *Hint: there are 3 with a little added bonus point if you can get the 3.1 that I added in my message.*
- How much is too much?
- Why are earthly treasures so attractive? In the message I shared 5 reasons however why are they so attractive to you?

SO having said all that Jesus encourages us to store up treasures, where? In heaven!

- What are Heavenly Treasures? Discuss this.

Jesus wraps this all up in v 21 by saying, "wherever your treasure is there your heart will be also." In other words when you look at the map of your life, X marks the spot.

- What do your X's reveal about your heart today?

v22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,[c] your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy,[d] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

2. THE 2 EYES of the HEART

The eyes are known as the conduit to the inner person and the reality is that there are 2 types of eyes.

- What does a healthy eye look at?
- What does an unhealthy eye look at?
- Is there anyone in the group prepared to share their experience here?

So simply, what are you looking at? Are your eyes healthy or unhealthy? This affects your heart!

v24 *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other."*

3. The 2 MASTERS of the HEART

- What are the 2 masters being referred to here?

In the message I shared this quote.

A smart person said this, *"Many perceptive observers have sensed that the greatest danger to Western Christianity is not, as is sometimes alleged, prevailing ideologies such as Marxism, Islam, the New Age movement or humanism but rather the all-pervasive materialism of our affluent culture. We try so hard to create heaven on earth and to throw in Christianity when convenient as another small addition to the so-called good life. Jesus proclaims that unless we are willing to serve him wholeheartedly in every area of life, but particularly with our material resources, we cannot claim to be serving him at all."*

- Do you agree or disagree, discuss?

Jesus finishes his sermon with *"You cannot serve both God and money."* A call to One-Eyed Devotion and a challenge to "MAKE A CHOICE!" What is it going to be?

As we wrap up take some time to REFLECT. You might like to bow your head and close your eyes in the next few moments to focus on what the Spirit of God is saying to you today

2 TREASURES, 2 EYES and 2 MASTERS...

I would love you to take hold of the map called your life, called your Kingdom life and I would love you to honestly look at where the X's are and what they reveal about your heart! Remember, X MARKS THE SPOT, *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. If your eyes are healthy,[c] your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy,[d] your whole body will be full of darkness. "You cannot serve both God and money."*

Where are those X's? Do some of them need to be scrubbed out and shifted? Do you need to move them into a new place altogether. Maybe in a place that will mean you are investing in treasures in heaven. Maybe in a place that will require you to dig for truth. Maybe you need to focus on something else maybe you...

Need to choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve

And my prayer is that you would live out and say what Joshua said in Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

So practically what can we do from here?

1. Can I encourage you to get serious about your Kingdom Life! Root one in our discipleship tree is taking responsibility for my own Spiritual Development, put an X there, then carve out some time in your busy schedule to spend some time with Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to help you put together a spiritual development map or what we like to call a KINGDOM LIFE MAP/PLAN, which is essentially an intentional prayed out plan to grow as a disciple of Jesus. This could be misinterpreted as works? Well you need to know that hoping to grow is not a strategy, we have a choice and a part to play in this. Just do one thing!!! Go on retreat, come to church every week, get in a small group, do a course, talk to your friends about things that matter, start sowing into the mission of helping people find and follow JESUS. Spend some time discussing...

Finish with prayer.

In this together, thank you and God Bless,

Rod Thom