



# SUMMER ON THE MOUNT

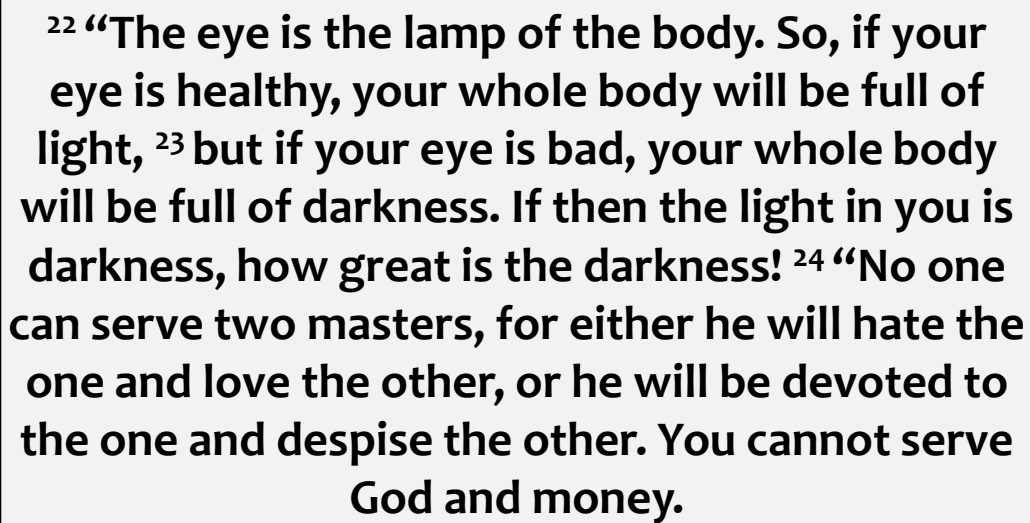
Today we are continuing our ***Summer On The Mount*** Sermon Series, where we are focused on the most transformative sermon ever preached, ***The Sermon on the Mount***.

This morning we are going to be in Matthew Chapter 6 starting in verse 19.

## Matthew 6:19-24 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Read Sermon Text:



<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! <sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Continue Reading:



# SUMMER ON THE MOUNT

## *Wealth Redefined*

Our Sermon title this morning is **Wealth Redefined** because what we see Jesus doing in this text is REDEFINING what it means to be wealthy.

Jesus had a knack for redefining reality..... the Sermon on the Mount is such a transformative sermon because Jesus seeks to reorient our thinking on a number of issues..... and here today we are going to examine WHAT JESUS THOUGHT WEALTH REALLY CONSISTS OF.

Now when we think of WEALTH in the traditional sense we think of Bill Gates, or Warren Buffet.....



For some reason when I think of wealth I always think of **Thurston Howell III** from **Gilligan's Island**.

Now, Thurston and his wife Lovey were so wealthy that he apparently took hundreds of thousands of dollars with him on a 3 hour tour... (a 3 hour tour).

On Thurston's Wikipedia Bio.....it says that he owned several companies, but he made most of his billions **investing** in oil.

You see church when we think of wealth we often think of **investing**... because money managers the world over preach to their clients about the importance of investing.....and in earthly terms they are right.





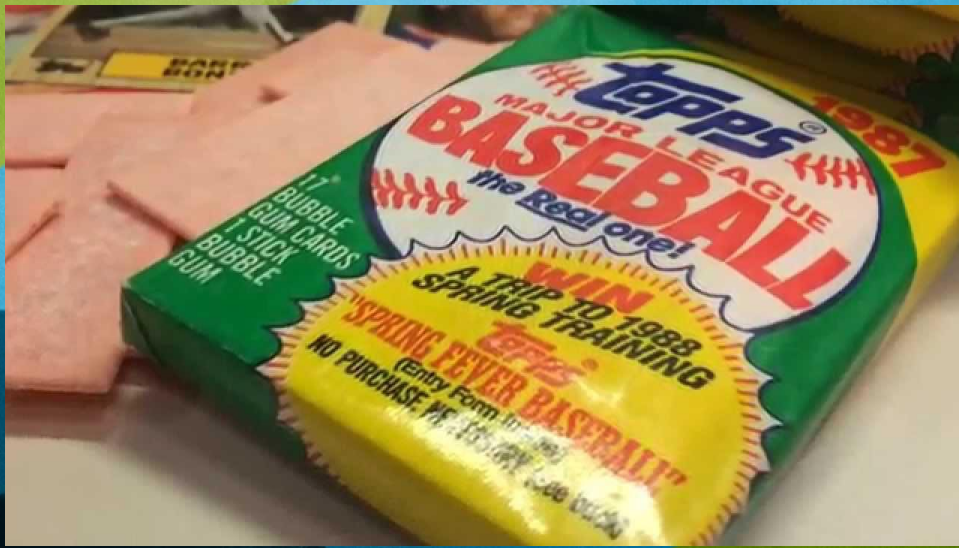
# SUMMER ON THE MOUNT

## *Wealth Redefined*

As we pull apart our text this morning we are going to see Jesus help us understand that YES proper investing does lead to WEALTH, but He is also going to help us understand that ***if we seek to follow Him...*** our INVESTMENTS and our WEALTH must be AIMED at Eternal things... things that will last.

The Sermon on the Mount is really a discipleship manual, a manual on what it means to take up our cross and FOLLOW JESUS..... and one of the main areas where we can fall in our walk with Jesus is with regards to how we use our resources.

Jesus knows that in our short-sightedness we will make investments on earth with little regard for heaven..... and so here we are cautioned NOT TO MAKE BAD INVESTMENTS.



Illus:

Speaking of bad investments.....I remember when I first started getting an allowance I SPENT ALL MY MONEY ON BASEBALL CARDS. (Anybody else fall for the baseball card scam as a kid?)

And I did this for two reasons #1, back in the day, if you bought a pack of Tops baseball cards there was stick of gum inside, now in hindsight this was the stalest/nastiest piece of gum EVER. But to a 9 year old even a stale piece of gum laced with lead from China is still gum, and we ate it up.

## Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

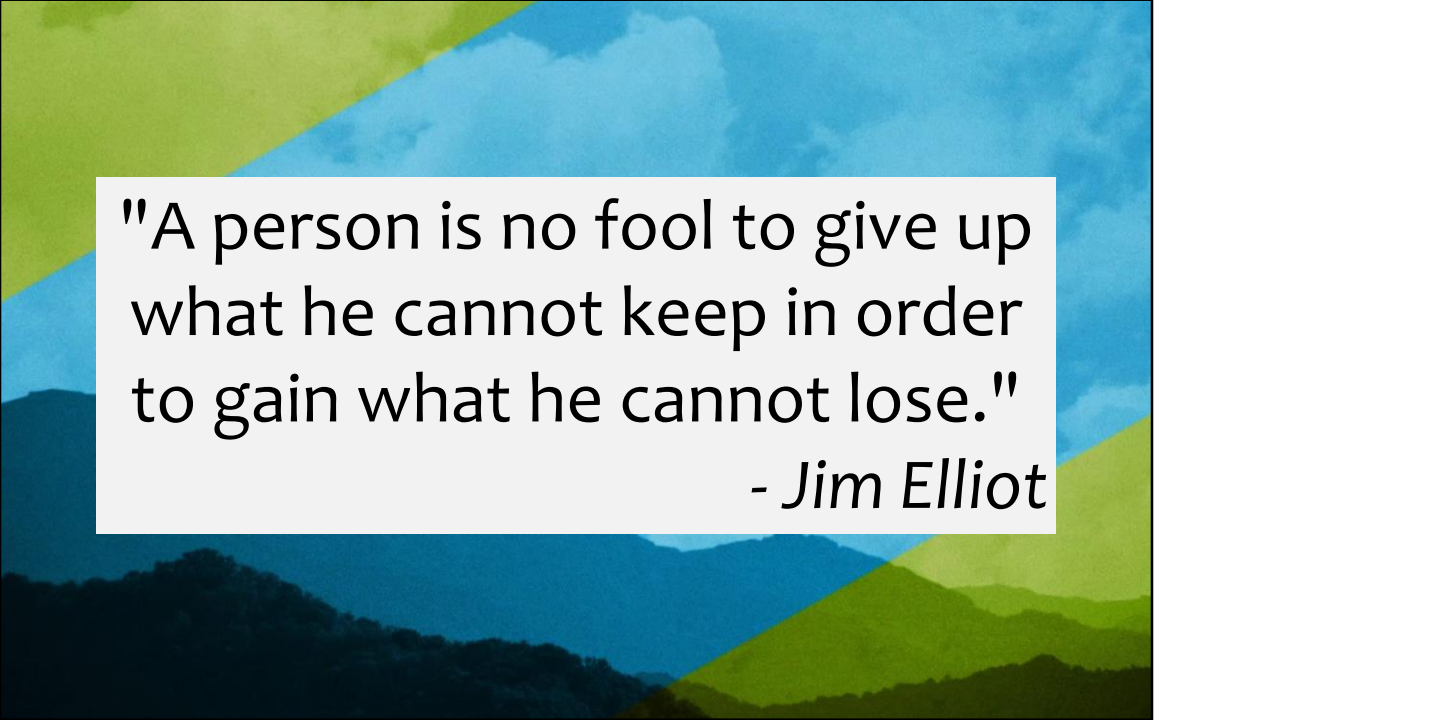
**19** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

When Jesus says in verse 19, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,” he is saying that there is ***NO SECURITY IN MATERIAL THINGS.***

Because anything we INVEST IN MATERIALLY can be either destroyed, (by moth or rust) or it can be stolen by (thieves).

Now this is something I think is obvious to all of us right?... the idea that we cannot take MATERIAL THINGS with us past this EARTHLY plain... but do we make financial decisions on a daily basis as if this is so?





"A person is no fool to give up  
what he cannot keep in order  
to gain what he cannot lose."

- Jim Elliot

Jim Elliot, was a missionary who was martyred for his faith, and he understood this reality when he wrote in his personal journal, *"A person is no fool to give up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose."*

Church it is not foolish to give up what you cannot keep in order to gain what you cannot lose. ***But this is not the message we will hear when we turn on the television or talk to our neighbors.....NO... ..our culture is rife with perspective that will leave us materially rich while eternally poor.***

## Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

But in verse 20 Jesus shares of an INVESTMENT STRATEGY that cannot be DESTROYED or STOLEN.

He says to, ***“lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”***  
But what is Jesus talking about here? What does it mean to INVEST IN HEAVEN?

We INVEST IN HEAVEN when we live our lives with **OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN HANDS**.

**Open hearts** means we possess hearts that beat in unison with the Father. And as our hearts are open, we share His heart for – the poor, the lonely, the disenfranchised, and the lost. We are open hearted in that we are willing for our hearts to be effected and influenced by the brokenness around us to the extent that IT CAUSES US TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THOSE IN NEED.



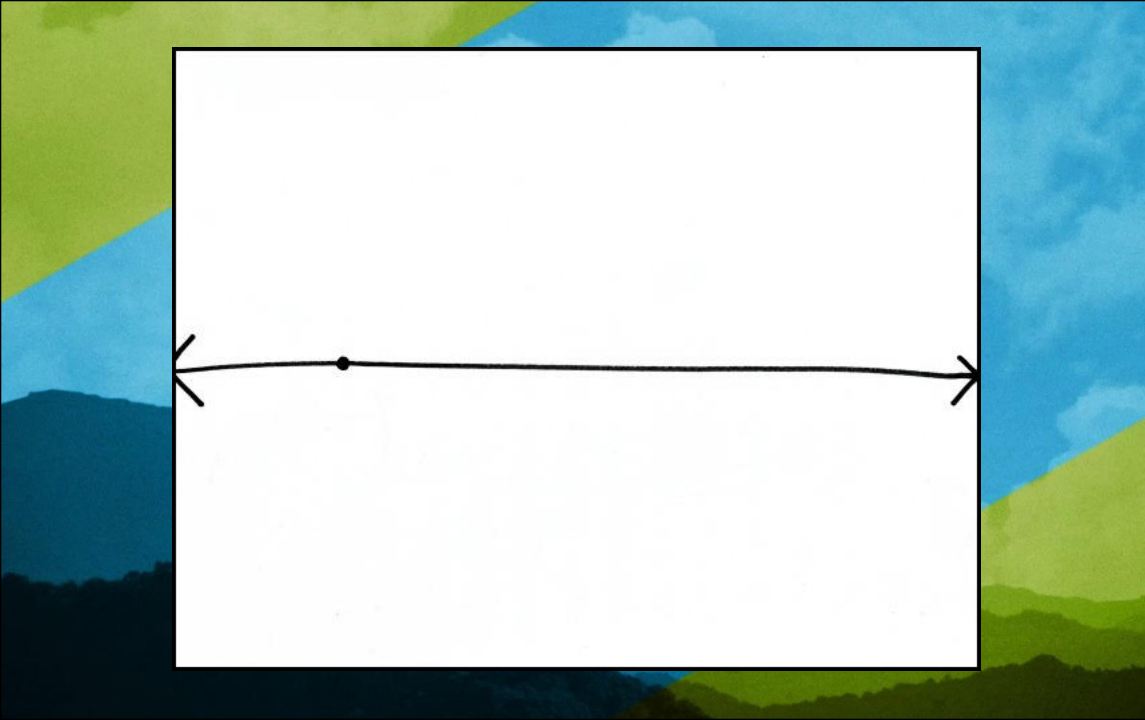
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*Wealth Redefined*

But why don't we live this way?

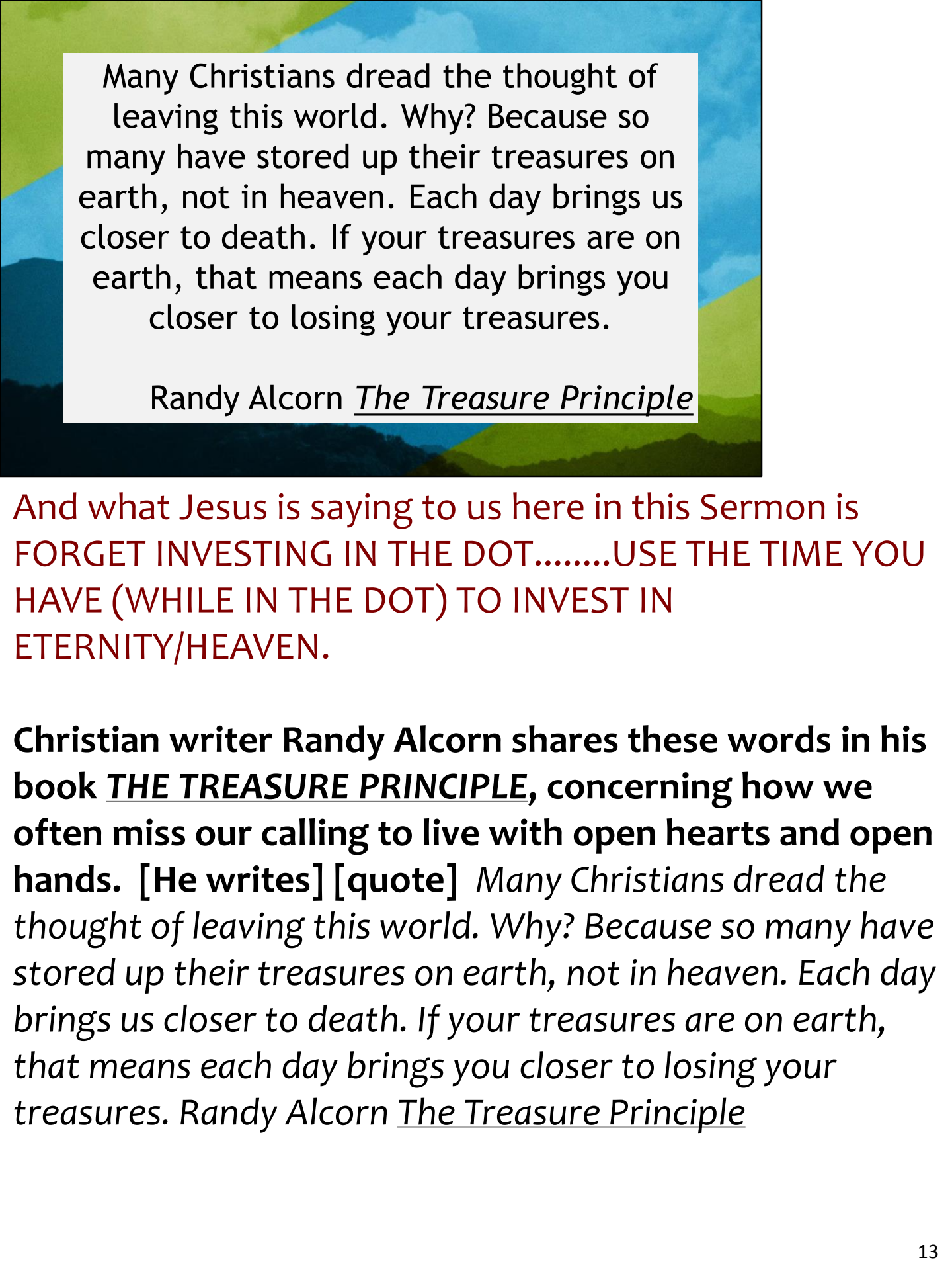
Why is it difficult for us to LIVE WITH OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN HANDS?

I think a part of it's because we don't live with ETERNITY IN VIEW, I think a part of it's because even though we know we are mortal.....we have a "sort of" amnesia to the fact that DEATH COMES FOR ALL, and some of us unexpectedly.



Illus:  
Church imagine that your life is this dot. From the time of your birth to the time of your death, it is all wrapped up in that DOT.....while that LINE your DOT IS ON REPRESENTS ETERNITY (stretching far past that page on forever). That line is NEVER ENDING.

Now imagine INVESTING ALL YOU HAVE IN THAT LITTLE DOT (that short amount of time). When you have the REST OF ETERNITY TO COME. This would be the WORST INVESTMENT OF ALL TIME AND YET WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE THE ENEMY HAS ENTICED SO MANY INTO LIVING SOLELY FOR 'THE DOT'.



Many Christians dread the thought of leaving this world. Why? Because so many have stored up their treasures on earth, not in heaven. Each day brings us closer to death. If your treasures are on earth, that means each day brings you closer to losing your treasures.

Randy Alcorn *The Treasure Principle*

And what Jesus is saying to us here in this Sermon is FORGET INVESTING IN THE DOT.....USE THE TIME YOU HAVE (WHILE IN THE DOT) TO INVEST IN ETERNITY/HEAVEN.

Christian writer Randy Alcorn shares these words in his book *THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE*, concerning how we often miss our calling to live with open hearts and open hands. [He writes] [quote] *Many Christians dread the thought of leaving this world. Why? Because so many have stored up their treasures on earth, not in heaven. Each day brings us closer to death. If your treasures are on earth, that means each day brings you closer to losing your treasures.* Randy Alcorn *The Treasure Principle*



## Luke 12:16-21 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.’ <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> *So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.*”

And if you want another crystal clear example of what Jesus thought about WEALTH AND INVESTING you need look no further than Luke chapter 12..... turn with me there for a moment....here we find *The Parable of the Rich Fool*.

## Read:

This is a clear injunction on greed. In the eyes of the Lord this man is wasting his wealth by storing it up. But from a earthly perspective..... this guys is smart, from an earthly perspective this guy is winning at life. And there sits the challenge for us as 21<sup>st</sup> century Americans..... what to do with this counter cultural perspective.

## Matthew 6:22, 23 (ESV)

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

In verse 22, here Jesus gives us insight on how to keep focused... counting God as our riches. Here using a metaphor of the eye.

### Re-Read:

Here Jesus sees our eyes are the gateway to our hearts and minds... they provide a doorway to our very souls.

Jesus' caution here is that **Greed Darkens Our Eyes.....** it makes it hard for us to **see well/perceive well.....** and we need to be able to **see well/perceive well** because Greed is a sneaky sin....while adultery and anger and theft are all obvious....greed often hides itself within us... disrupting our vision.



**Illus:**  
You know I heard the craziest story... and I must state up front this is a true documented story because you're not going to believe this... Doctors at Solihull Hospital in the United Kingdom were about to perform eye surgery on a 67 year old woman who complained of chronic dry eye and discomfort...her eye had grown cloudy and dark, she was barely able to see out of it and it was very painful.

*As the anesthetist began to numb her eye, he noticed that this woman still had her contacts in.....so he removed not 1, or even 2.....**the woman had 27 contacts in her eye.***

*No wonder she couldn't see anything... .. they removed the 27 contacts and (you guessed it) she didn't need surgery... .. she could see. If Jesus was ministering on Earth today He most certainly would be telling **The Parable of the 27 contacts.***

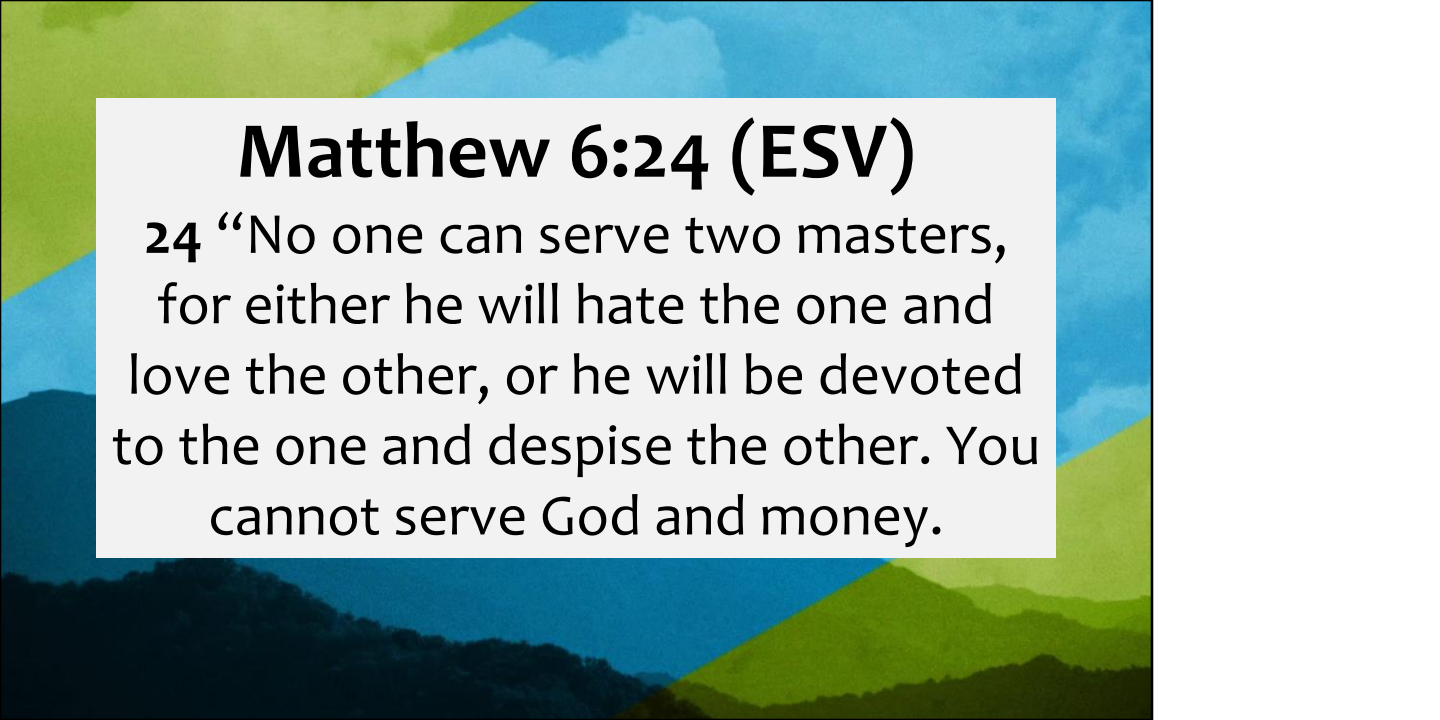


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Church if God were to evaluate your spiritual portfolio....a portfolio filled with how you have invested your time, talents, treasure what grade might He give you today? *[Pause]*

But perhaps an even more important question is....regardless of your past, how might you make better investments in the future FOR HIS GLORY AND YOUR GOOD.

Here at Brandywine there are many ways to get involved in ministry..... we are investing here for ETERNITY, from our Sunday school teachers, to our Small Group Leaders, from our Missionaries spread across the globe to the Vacation Bible School held a few short weeks ago, and our active Youth Ministry.



## Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

### Read:

Jesus speaks these words because he is aware that we are prone to have DIVIDED MINDS when it comes to how we will want to serve and how we will want to invest.

And often times when we have divided minds on how to INVEST we do what the experts tell us...we DIVERSIFY.

Now, diversification (spreading the investment wealth out) is the hallmark of any wise “earthly” investment strategy.





## The Disciple's Guide to Redefining Wealth

**#1. Build generosity into your budget**

**#2. Give time and money to local ministries**

**#3. Have a garage sale or sell stuff on eBay**

**#4. Adopt an orphan or become a foster parent**

**#5. Think twice**

**#6. Set a goal**



Ok so, here are some practical ways to rearrange priorities and start living for heavenly treasure..... here is how we can REDEFINE WHAT WEALTH MEANS TO US.

**#1. Build generosity into your budget** – start budgeting for giving and start looking to give to those in need.

**#2. Give time and money to local ministries** – our church and many local ministries need volunteers and financial investment. Your investment in The Kingdom has a far-reaching effect when you join others to accomplish God's work.

**#3. Have a garage sale or sell stuff on eBay** - and give the proceeds away to a hurting family. Many of us have things laying around the house that we don't use... sell those things and put the proceeds towards Kingdom work.



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*Wealth Redefined*

Church family, one day in the not so distant future, Jesus Christ will return and He will bring the treasures that you have stored up with Him. He will return with ALL YOUR HEAVENLY INVESTMENTS.

In the final chapter of the Bible, Jesus declares:  
*“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done”* (Rev 22:12).

He is bringing back what you have invested with Him from the one place in the universe that it can never be lost. Only heavenly treasure can provide genuine security and permanence.



And so they came up with the idea to set up a Lemonade stand.....and then they started going door to door.....these girls **decided to invest in Heaven**... they raised over \$160 a 7,8, and 9 year old.

When I was 9 years old as I already told you earlier... I spent all of my money on me.....it wasn't till I got much older that I learned the joy of generosity and investing in heaven.

Now the point of this isn't that all of you need to leave here and set up a lemonade stand. If I find that you all went home and set up lemonade stands it will be evidence that you didn't listen to my sermon. 😊

***The point is that these girls used what they had TO BE RICH TOWARDS GOD... BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT DISCIPLES DO!***



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*Wealth Redefined*

Friends.....

How can you be rich towards God?

How can you invest in heaven?

How can you keep your eyes clear, so you can see  
your life's best investments?

**Pray:**