

Introduction:

- A man named Stumpy illustrates how money affects people. Stumpy and his wife Martha went to the state fair every year and every year when Stumpy saw the antique bi-plane he would say, "Martha, I'd like to ride in that airplane." Martha always replied, "I know Stumpy, but that airplane ride costs 10 dollars, and 10 dollars is 10 dollars. One year Stumpy and Martha went to the fair and Stumpy said, "Martha, I'm 81 years old. If I don't ride that airplane I might never get another chance." Martha replied, "Stumpy, that airplane ride cost 10 dollars, and 10 dollars is 10 dollars. The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you: but if you say one word it's 10 dollars." Stumpy and Martha agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word was heard. He did all his tricks over again, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Stumpy and said, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't." Stumpy replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Martha fell out, but 10 dollars is 10 dollars."
- Our passage tonight revolves around verse 24 of Mt 6. "*You cannot serve both God and money.*" Remember this sermon on the mount is a message of Jesus designed to get the heart of the people into a more righteous place. A place more righteous than the Pharisee because Jesus is interested in the heart not the behavior. He is interested in populating heaven.
 - Jesus is seeking to help people put possessions in their right place. He does so by telling them where to invest, how to invest and why invest.

I. Where Should We Invest?

- A. Jesus addresses the people by talking about 'treasure'. We all dream of treasure to some degree. Why do you think so many lottery tickets are sold? We labor to live life a 'little' more comfortably. We labor to give our kids a better shot in life. We labor to have identity-jeans, shoes, car, etc. So what Jesus is getting at is this: What are you working for in this life? Is it for yourself, now? Or is it for the Kingdom, which is both now and forever?
 1. Treasure is that which is valuable to us. God is looking for us to love that which is valuable to Him and to labor for that. What is valuable to us we tend to accumulate.
 - a) For some it is wealth.
 - b) For some it is identity.
 - c) For some it is security.
 - d) None of these are bad or wrong but when they become the driving force of our lives then Jesus has to have a talk with us and sometimes redirect where we are investing ourselves.
- B. Lets start by looking at where not to invest.
 1. Treasure is from a word meaning – what is deposited or place of storage.
 2. Jesus clearly states in verse 19 Do not store up treasures on earth.

- a) The things that people store up are clothes, utensils, wealth as in gold and silver.
 - b) They store these things at home. IE. In Jesus day there were not banks per/say, so people brought the things that were valuable to them into their home.
 - c) In your house you can get bugs, mice, rust, and thieves can dig through your mud walls and take your stuff. The word 'destroy' is phaneros – which means to make invisible. In other words 'stuff' will go away. What is Jesus saying?
 - d) Do not invest in stuff that will perish or go away, or in things that have no eternal value.
3. Treasure is that which is valuable to us. God is looking for us to love that which is valuable to Him and to labor for that.

C. Then where are we to invest?

- 1. Jesus again very clearly says, invest your goods in heaven because what 'stuff' you put there will never be made invisible. It will never go away because it is eternal. There is nothing there that can make it invisible, corrupt or less valuable!
- 2. vs. 21 He is back to using the language of the 'heart.' This whole sermon on the mount is about the heart. If you want to see where your treasure is look at what you give your heart to. Where ever your heart is located there you will find your treasure. The heart speaks of what is of central importance in a person...what constitutes their true character.
 - a) The next three verses is about solidifying the heart to invest in Kingdom things. The treasure comes by belonging to and living by the priorities of the Kingdom of heaven.
 - b) vs. 22 and 23 have to do with what the eye gate is letting in. What are you focused on? Message Bible says it best: *"Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!* The Message (Mt 6:22-23).
 - c) vs 24 You cant serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and money.
- 3. Therefore choose where you are going to invest. It is a "no brainer"! Go for the sure deal, the secure deal, the one that will never lose! Therefore.....

II. **How Do You Invest?**

- A. Lets look at how not to invest first. Jesus, once again, is very direct. **"Don't Worry!"** And he says it three times: vs. 25, 28, 31, 34. Don't worry about food, don't worry about clothes, don't worry about tomorrow.
- 1. Merrimnao -
 - a) It is the opposite of trust in God. Worry is about the lack of faith in God.
 - b) Gr. The NT realizes that life is swayed by care, anxiousness, fear. Concern is unavoidable but it is given a new orientation. It is a self concern relative to the future.

Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 584). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

2. Worry will not add a day to your life.
- B. Life is more than food, clothing and tomorrow.
 1. We are to invest by trusting God. Faith.
 2. Liberation from worry comes as one casts it upon God, not because God grants every wish, but because prayer grants freedom from care.
 3. We are to invest by seeking the Kingdom of God. Matthew uses this phrase only 5 times. The rest of the time he uses Kingdom of heaven. Kingdom of God makes what he is saying that much more personal to his audience.
- C. We invest by seeking. *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:33, NLT)
 1. We do not invest by worrying. We invest by trusting God.
 2. Our activity is to be seeking the Kingdom. It in itself is the treasure! Seeking means to look for; to obtain or to get. It means to live under the King of the Kingdom.
 3. Every time you find the Kingdom, you have found treasure that will not become invisible.
 - a) When you give to the poor – you give to God. There is the Kingdom.
 - b) When you give a prophetic word – you are sharing the heart of God to someone. There is the Kingdom of God.
 - c) When you serve others – you are working Kingdom principals.
 - d) The Kingdom is more than a place in eternity with God.
 - e) What we do here now, matters there for all eternity. When we bring the Kingdom into the earth, we are releasing the treasure of heaven. When we bring someone into the Kingdom the treasure of heaven increases.

III. Why Invest? Why store up this treasure?

- A. Because you are more valuable than birds vs. 26. God values.
- B. Because you are more valuable than flowers. vs. 30 God cares.
- C. Because God already knows you have these needs. God knows. That is why we ask 6:8
- D. Because people are more important to the Father than anything we could ever possess.

Conclusion:

- Treasure is that which is valuable to us. God is looking for us to love that which is valuable to Him and to labor for that.
 - We are valuable
 - His Kingdom is valuable to us