

Jesus C.F.O (Week 2): Servants, Treasures, Eyes, & Hearts  
**Yesterday's Sermon - In 10 Bullet Points or less**

1) We turned our attention yesterday to Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount, 1/6 of which is devoted to money and possessions; we took a deep dive into the opening paragraph of that section, Matthew 6.19-24, which centers on three, interconnected principles.



2) We began at the end of that paragraph (6.24), in which we are told that each of us must choose who we serve in this life - God or the godlike "Mammon" (money + all that money can buy).

3) Remembering that the vast majority of Jesus' audience was poor makes us realize that both the wealthy and poor alike can find themselves ensnared by wealth (either its excess or its lack).

4) Fundamentally, God wants to have an unrivaled place in our lives, which begins with what Psalm 86.11 calls "an undivided heart." Francois Fenelon, a French bishop from the 1600 and 1700s CE expressed that this say: "What God asks is a will that will no longer be divided between Him and any other creature or thing, a will pliable in His hands."

5) Matt. 6.19-20 contain the second principle: we ensure that we're serving the right, best possible lord (God) by prioritizing the things that God values (heavenly treasure), and keep earthly treasure in relative perspective.

6) What God values is imperishable and cannot ever be taken away from you; earthly treasure (money and stuff) is neither or those things.

7) For Jesus' audience, this would have been a liberating, empowering message: most were poor, and as such would have assumed that "earthly treasure" was far beyond their grasp, and would have been ecstatic to hear that they have full, unencumbered access to what matters most in life (heavenly treasure).

8) Maybe most striking is Jesus' third principle, as stated in 6.21-23: you become what you treasure.

9) Jesus lays out a clear spiritual cause and effect: whatever you value most inevitably molds and shapes your heart, and sometimes in unanticipated ways.

10) Thus, based on this powerful paragraph in the Sermon on the Mount, we conclude with Canadian baptist pastor Paul Carter that "The bottom line is this: money is a good tool and a bad god."

## More this Week

1) Scripture reading this week:

- Refamiliarize yourself with the mesmerizing, challenging majesty of Jesus' "stump speech" that we now call The Sermon on the Mount (in three different translations and paraphrases): [Matthew 5-7 NRSVUE;NCV;MSG](#)
- Focus in on the full section on money and possessions in The Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 6.19-34 (we only covered its opening paragraph): [Matthew 6.19-34 NRSVUE;NCV;MSG](#)

2) Make some lists this week during your devotional time:

- What's heavenly treasure (Matt. 6.19-20)? What do you think God values most?
- What heavenly treasure are you really caring about right now?
- What earthly treasure is vying right now for your attention, energy, and focus?

3) Reflect on how you have become what you've treasured in your life. How do you see that cause and effect playing out, for better and worse, in your life?

4) Here's a set of three daily devotionals on the 2nd half of Matthew 6, that 1/6 of The Sermon on the Mount that focuses on money and possessions. Sprinkle them throughout your week: [Tesoro](#) and [Pecked to Death by Ducks](#) and [For the Sake of Appearances](#)

5) Professor Charles Lee, who teaches business at Stanford and who is also an adult convert to Christianity, does a great job from his unique point of view of describing Jesus' core teachings about money (6 min. video): [What does Jesus say about money? | Charles Lee at Brown University](#)