

Matthew 6:19-21

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-6/matthew-619-21/>

Jesus encourages His disciples to invest their treasures wisely where their value won't be lost. And He tells them that their hearts will follow their treasures.

The parallel account of this teaching is found in Luke 12:33-34. A similar, but not quite parallel, teaching is also found in Luke 12:15-21.

Continuing His instruction on how to seek their best, Jesus warns His disciples *not to store up for yourselves treasures on earth*. Treasure can be anything someone highly values. *Treasures* are precious. They can be money, time, relationships, reputations, accomplishments, etc. The reason He warns against this is because all *treasures on earth* will one day lose their value. It is an inferior investment strategy to *store up* (save or invest) anything of considerable value in a place *where* it is likely to be ruined or lost.

People don't leave their valuables in the shed or in the yard, but they *store* them in a safe. People don't invest their wealth in a company that they are worried will soon file for bankruptcy, but they put it in a stock they believe will go *up* in value, and give them a bountiful return. People want to *store* their *treasures* in things that will both last and increase in value.

But Jesus doesn't just say that storing up *treasures on earth* is only likely to end poorly. He guarantees it. *Earth* is a place *where moth and rust will destroy* the value of our *treasures*. Earth is a place *where thieves break in and steal* the hopes we have for our *treasures*. Our gold, if invested on earth, will rust. Our earthly clothes will be eaten by moths. Our intentions will be redirected and stolen by *thieves*. This mortal world and all its kingdoms will come to an end. And when it does, all of its *treasures* will be lost forever. *Do not store up your treasures here*.

It is infinitely more prudent, Jesus teaches, to *store up for yourselves treasures in heaven*. *Heaven* is a place *where* a treasure's value is never lost. *Treasures* that are *stored up* there have *neither moth nor rust* to ruin them. There are no *thieves in heaven* to *break in* or spoil the value of such *treasures*. Heaven is an immortal world and an everlasting kingdom. All of its treasures will forever be cherished and accrue value. *Store up your treasures there*.

And here is the kicker. It is not only a wise investment to store lasting *treasures* through obedience to God, and seeking to please Him. It also properly orients *your heart*. Jesus reveals that a core reason His disciples should *store up treasures in heaven* is because of this truth: *where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*.

Our hearts always follow what we treasure. If we *store* our treasures *on earth*, we not only lose our treasure, we also fill our heart with the things of a world that will one day be no more. We will be like the believer at Christ's judgment whose work is burned up and suffers loss (1 Corinthians 3:15). If we *store* our treasures *in heaven*, we not only keep our treasure, but we

plant our *heart* in a world that will last forever. We will be like the believer at Christ's judgment whose work remains and receives reward (1 Corinthians 3:14).

Jesus's advice begs the question: Where do you want your *heart* to be? *Heaven* or *Earth*? If, after self-evaluation, we determine that our *heart* is in the wrong place, we can redirect it to a proper place by applying Jesus' advice, and place our resources into His kingdom. When we invest our *treasures* in the place *where* we want our heart to *be*, then our *heart will be* there. *For* wherever we invest our *treasure*, there our *heart will also be*. This is known as the treasure principle: invest *where* you want *your heart* to *be*.

Biblical Text

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.