***Matthew 6:19-21 “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.***

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Our relationship with God, through Jesus His Son, is always an affair of the heart. God looks upon the heart. Man sees as man sees, but Jeremiah 17:10 says - *I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.* Our heart is what God pursues. Proverbs 4:23 instructs us to *Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.* Matthew 15:18 reveals - *But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man*.What is in our heart and what is presenting in our life cannot be divided. Luke 6:45 *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.* Our heart will hold fast to what we treasure – the world or God? It can only hold one – we must choose very, very carefully.

Verse 19 says *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.* This is a command, not a suggestion. Literally, the original language had the meaning of – treasure not for yourselves earthly treasure. We are sojourners, passing through this world. This is not our permanent home. None of us hang expensive wall paintings on the tent walls when we camp or redecorate the hotel room when we travel. It makes no sense – those are temporary dwellings on the way to our real homes. Just as ridiculous is investing in laying up what we are destined to leave behind. Many silly things have been done in the name of pride and vanity and keeping up with the Jones’s – the silliest of all is investing our eternity in what is temporary

Verse 20 says *- but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*Jesus said don’t and now He says do. Do treasure up the things of heaven. We are to send our belongings ahead to our permanent home. They’ll be waiting when we arrive!

How do we send treasures ahead? The answer lies in the motivations of the heart. Colossians 3:23-24 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ*. When God is our treasure, we work heartily for the Lord, confident that He sees and rewards. Matthew 10:41-42 says *He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.* God sees when we receive one of His children and rewards. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 *Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.* We must steward our blessings properly, always with an eye toward eternal impact. Hebrews 13:16 *But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.* 2 Timothy 4:7-8 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.* We can go on and on, but it all comes back to serving God with loving God as our motivation, not man, not the world.

Verse 21 finishes - *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Remember Proverbs 4:23 *Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.* Our heart directs our time, administers our talents, and spends our money. That which we hold in highest value receives priority in our lives. When the world is our treasure, our heart is there and so too is our time, talent, and money. The world takes what we offer and divides it, making it less, leaving us empty and unsatisfied. When God is our treasure, our heart is there also. He takes what we offer and multiplies it, making it more, filling us completely, and bringing satisfaction and purpose to our journey!

This week, let’s figure out where we’re treasuring up our treasures. Are we filling our eternal home with the rewards and treasures of an impactful walk with Jesus while here on earth? Or are we buying trinkets and doodads that our children will sell when we’re gone? Are we investing in sharing the Gospel with others, pleasing God as He looks on our hearts? Or are we investing in things that will one day find their way to the landfill? Are we offering our life to the dividing world, destined for disappointment and death? Or are we offering our life to our multiplying God, reaching for eternity and life? Where your treasure is there will be your heart also? Where do you find your heart and your treasure this morning?