

Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus

A Discipleship Journey



Sermon on the Mount

Week 21

Time and Talent and Treasure – Oh My!

Matthew 6:19 - 21

Opening Prayer:

Our Father

A Reflection

Our Father Who Art In Heaven – O Creator, You made all things in love. All of creation is a blessing emanating from You.

Hallowed Be Thy Name – Help us to let go, to clear the space inside of busy forgetfulness so that You can come and reside within us.

Thy Kingdom Come – Let Your counsel rule our lives; unite our “I can” to Yours so that, together, we can bring forth a new world of peace.

Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven – As we find Your love in ours, let Your heart’s fervent desire move us beyond ourselves to help bring about a new way of being.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread – Grant what we need each day in bread and insight; sustenance for the call of growing life.

And Forgive Us Our Trespases As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us – Loose the cords of mistakes that bind us, as we release the strands we hold of other’s guilt.

And Lead Us Not Into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil – Don’t let surface things distract us; free us from the things that hold us back from our true purpose.

AMEN

Reflection

Over and over again in Scripture, Jesus prioritizes intent over action. We saw earlier in the Sermon His “you’ve heard it said.....but I say....” statements focusing our attention on the intent of the law rather than the letter of the law. In the next several passages, Jesus does so once again. This week’s reflection sets the foundation for what follows:

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:19 - 21

The word “treasures” suggests something sacred, valuable, and carefully tended. Traditionally we might think of our “treasures” as physical possessions or wealth, which is definitely one aspect of the term. Catholic teaching, however, expands the definition into three broad categories: time, talent, and treasure. In addition to wealth and possessions, the Church’s definition would also include skills, intellect, social status, entertainment, hobbies, schedules, and anything upon which we place significant value.

Contrary to some, Jesus is NOT saying that any of the things listed above are bad or wrong. How we spend our time, how we engage our skills, or where we spend our money is not the concern. In fact, Jesus *wants* us to enjoy all of creation since everything we have is a gift from God. But what Jesus doesn’t want is for our “treasures” to rule our lives; He warns against the *self-centered* use of time, *self-absorbed* use of talents, or *narcissistic* accumulation of goods. After all, in the end these material things only disappoint and *rust consumes*. The “treasures” Jesus seeks for us are the enduring, lasting qualities such as faith, hope, and love. These are the treasures that will bring about God’s kingdom here on earth.

To help increase our awareness around this, Jesus invites us to examine our motives and intentions for or around how we spend our time, where we display our talents, and how we invest our money. We will reflect more deeply on this next week. For now, let us remember that all we have is a gift from God, that we are mere custodians or stewards of all of these gifts given to us. Jesus challenges us to use our time, talent, and treasure to build “treasures” in heaven.

Reflection Question: How can I use my treasures to give glory to God and bring about His kingdom here on earth?

Closing Prayer

Speak to Jesus about what is on your heart, then rest in silence for a few moments listening for His response.