

**Matthew 6:19-21 New International Version - UK**

***19 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

Jesus warns against putting our trust in earthly treasure – so vulnerable to being destroyed or stolen – but to store treasure in Heaven – having a heart for Kingdom values, building our love for God and others, using our secret devotions to develop our relationship with God, being Spirit filled and using the gifts of the Spirit are all things that cannot be taken away from us. Is your treasure stored in Heaven? Give thanks that the things we treasure cannot rust or decay but are safe for all time in Jesus.

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**Matthew 6:22-24 New International Version - UK**

***22 'The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy<sup>l</sup> your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!***

***24 'No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.***

The teaching continues on the theme of holding our Treasure in Heaven. The theme of light and darkness really can apply to other things which prevent us from following Jesus and doing God's will. To walk in the Spirit is to walk in the light and to serve God brings light, Jesus warns that it is not possible to serve to masters, we must choose, our love of God or our love of Money? ***1 Timothy 6:10 - For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.***

Pray for those who live in darkness, for whom money and their love of money has led them astray. Ask that God will keep us walking in the light of life and store our treasure safely in heaven.

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**Matthew 6:25-27 New International Version - UK**

***25 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?***

Jesus warns His followers not to worry about the things we need – worry does not gain us a single thing and can cost us our wellbeing and our health. Worrying about such things also shows a lack of faith in God to provide and protect. What things worry you? Pray for those who are worried and afraid, those who lack the basic needs for life and struggle day by day to survive. Ask God to provide for your needs and keep you from worrying.

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### **Matthew 6:28-34 New International Version - UK**

***28 'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.***

Jesus warns His followers not to be weighed down with care about the basic things, instead to use their energies to pursue the Kingdom and God's righteousness and God will provide everything we need. Worrying about things does not change them. Focus on what is happening now and let tomorrow worry about itself! It is an easy phrase to say 'don't worry' but a hard thing to do. Let God help you. Give thanks that God provides for all our needs and ask Him to help us not to worry about daily living and a future we cannot change.

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### **Matthew 7: 1-2 New International Version – UK**

***7 'Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.***

I know that I need to be very generous in my forgiving of others and slow to judge and merciful in my judgement because this is what I need too – I need God's mercy in abundance, His patience and forgiveness by the bucketful – so this had better be the measure I use with others or I am in deep, deep trouble! What measure do you use? Pray for those who need mercy and forgiveness in great measure – that they will use the same measure in their dealings with others.

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### **Matthew 7:3-5 New International Version - UK**

***3 'Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.***

It is easy to see the tiny flaws in others whilst ignoring the great flaws in ourselves. Helping others to become perfect needs us to reach perfection first! Are you perfect? Pray for those who are judgemental of others without making any attempt to repair their own flaws.

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### **Matthew 7: 7-8 New International Version - UK**

***7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.'***

A great promise of Jesus, so encouraging, that to receive we only need ask, to find we only need to seek and for the door to open we only need to knock. Are you knocking, seeking and asking? Give thanks that Jesus keeps all His promises to us and ask that we will keep on knocking, seeking and asking