



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for the week of June 21, 2020

“Depth Perception”

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Theme/concept

We too often have a one-dimensional, limited model for faith based on being saved. We fail to embrace the multi-dimensional model that transforms life now and forever. Jesus did not come to earth so we would live our days in practical atheism, without any thought for God’s involvement in daily life. This sermon series calls us to focus on the things that matter most. Each message covers one of Trinity’s “Six Missional Marks” of a disciple who is fully alive in Christ. This message gives the overall theme of “focus.” The parable of the eye (Matthew 6) and of the pearl and the treasure call us to shift our focus from earthly values to kingdom values.

Application

We focus on the Lord empowering us to make the most of life now and for eternity.

Charge

Focus on making the most of life now!

Icebreaker (for groups)

If you had an infinite amount of money, what would you do? Do you think you would be happier?

Reflections on the sermon

What point from the sermon resonated most with you?

Scripture

Matthew 6:19-24 (New Living Translation)

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²² “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

Matthew 13:44-46 (NLT)

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶ When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

Breaking down the Scripture

1. What is Jesus saying about money in Matthew 6:19-24? Is Jesus condemning our desire for money or other treasure?
2. Besides money, what treasures do you think Jesus was talking about in Matthew 6:19? In Matthew 6:20?
3. How do you store up treasure in heaven?
4. What is the benefit of pursuing eternal treasure? (Matthew 6:19-24; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
5. What is Jesus trying to teach by using the analogy of the good eye and the bad eye in Matthew 6:22-24?

6. Do you think there is a difference between Jesus' reference to rewards in Matthew 6:1-4 and his reference to treasures in Matthew 6:19-21? What is the difference?

7. What is your understanding of the parables in Matthew 13:44-46? How are they similar and how are they different? What is meaningful about the difference?

8. What does Jesus teach about salvation in Matthew 13:44-46?

9. What did you learn from the sermon regarding the importance of focus?

Going deeper

1. Do you find it difficult to talk about money? If so, why? What emotions come up?

2. How was the subject of money handled in your family when you were growing up? Was it discussed freely? Do you handle the subject of money differently now?

3. What might be some indications that you love money more than you should? Are there steps you can take now to follow the Lord's instruction in Matthew 6:19-24? What is the first step?

4. We know from experience that earthly treasure never lasts. Given this knowledge, what causes you to lose sight of the eternal and focus on the temporal?

Reflection Questions

1. Is there a treasure in your life that has the potential to make you have contempt for the Lord, as referenced in Matthew 6:24? What is that treasure, and how can you change your focus?

2. What is your self-assessment of where you are regarding Trinity's six "missional marks," or measures (listed below)?

A person fully alive in Christ...

- Passionately loves God
- Hungers for God's word
- Creates life-giving community
- Demonstrates Christlike character
- Pursues God's call
- Joyfully reveals the good news

Closing prayer

Dear Lord, we confess that our tendency is to lose our focus on you. Please help us become aware of the desires in our heart that move our focus from where it should be. We ask that you transform our hearts and minds so that our passion and greatest treasure is to become more like you. Amen.