

Small Groups

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE

SERMON ON THE MOUNT – Week #19 – *Treasures in Heaven* – Aaron Bjorklund
March 17, 2024

[Leader note: Choose in advance which questions you want to spend the most time on. You may not have time to go through all of the questions in the study guide]

DIGGING IN:

1. Read Mathew 6:19-24.
2. What has been your understanding, prior to hearing this sermon, of “storing up treasures in heaven?”

MAKING IT REAL:

3. Read these points from the sermon for a quick review before answering the following questions:
 - “Store Up” = Invest: The resources we store are the resources we rely on when in need.
 - The Earth = Systems of the World,
 - Heaven = Systems of the Kingdom of God
 - “It’s not about the money; it’s about the systems we trust.”
4. Why is it difficult for us to trust in the system of the Kingdom rather than the system of the world/our money? [There are tough issues around this question. Dig in and wrestle through it with your group members. You may not come to a resolution, and that’s OK – The next question, can be rolled in with this one as you think deeply about these issues.]
5. Look over the charts of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, as met in the world’s way and in the Kingdom way. (On the last page of this study guide).
 - Where do you see yourself on these charts?
 - What do you struggle with on the Kingdom side?
6. “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Jesus understood the power of our earthly resources and the value we place on them. He knows that our hearts will be bound up in the things we are financially invested in.
 - Why does it matter where our heart is?
 - Do a personal “heart-check.” Where are *your* resources invested? How does that affect your heart, your focus? Jot down some thoughts that come to mind as you think about this (not for sharing with the group).

7. Aaron explained how the “healthy eye” and the “bad eye” in this passage would have indicated “whole and generous” or “stingy, self-focused, greedy.” He then stated that **“Our generosity reveals what’s in our hearts.”**
 - How does generosity *fuel* our trust in the system of the Kingdom (trusting/loving God instead of money)?
 - How does generosity *measure* our trust in God rather than money?
8. Brainstorm the different ways a person can invest financially in the Kingdom of God.
9. What are the *rewards* of investing in the Kingdom? Think about present rewards as well as future. What are the benefits of investing in people? In Kingdom work? What does it do for the people you invest in, and what does it do for *you* when you see the outcome of your investment?
10. Is there a way that your group would like to invest in the Kingdom *together*? Think together of a project you might want to pool your resources for, something that would “store up treasures in Heaven.”

PRAYER IDEAS

Pray for God to open your eyes to the places He wants you to invest. Your time, your talents, and specifically, your money.

WANT TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER?

(Extra Bible study ideas)

Look up these scriptures and make notes about how the Bible describes a healthy relationship with money, investing in the Kingdom, and trusting God with your needs.

Ecclesiastes 5:10
Deuteronomy 8:18
Matthew 6:19-24
1 Peter 5:2
Proverbs 15:27
Proverbs 13:16
Proverbs 21:5
Proverbs 13:11

James 5:4-6
Luke 14:28
Proverbs 30:24-25
1 Timothy 5:8
Proverbs 14:23
2 Corinthians 9:6-8
Deuteronomy 15:7
Acts 20:25

Matthew 6:2-5
Proverbs 3:9-10
Ecclesiastes 5:19
Nehemiah 10:35
1 Timothy 6:17-19
Philippians 4:19
Psalm 81:10
Luke 12:28

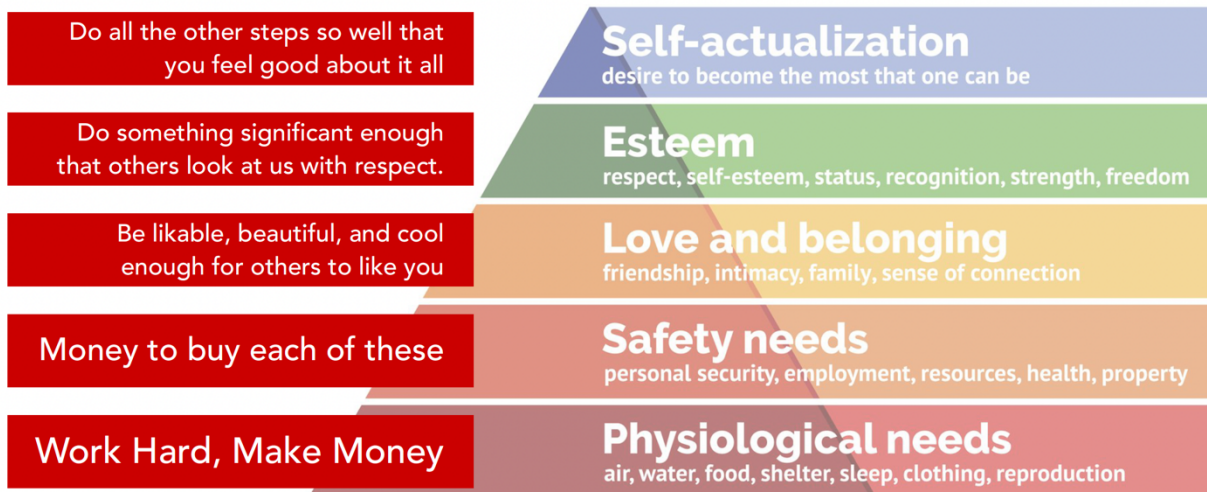
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Red Couch Theology Podcast

If you or group members have questions around parts of the sermon that are not included in the discussion guide, it's always helpful to listen to *Red Couch Theology*, where Alex and Aaron talk about the sermon and answer questions that come in from people in the congregation. <https://guysdrinkingtea.podbean.com/>

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs:

Worlds Way



Kingdom Way

