



# DESERT VIEW BIBLE CHURCH

JESUS' RELATIONS WITH THINGS AND PEOPLE •

MATTHEW 6:19-34 • 10/23/2022

## MAIN POINT

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God's goal for us is to live according to His agenda and value system, rather than the world's.

## INTRODUCTION

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As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**How do a person's possessions reveal what he or she values most in life?**

**Why do you think our culture thinks so highly of possessions?**

**Might a believer's possessions say something to the outside world about his or her faith? Why or why not?**

The way we treat possessions certainly says something to the world about the faith we profess. As those living for the kingdom, we ought to hold loosely to the material things of this world, choosing instead to focus our attention on the spiritual realm. We must become like Christ in our relationship to material things. Beyond that, though, we must also be like Christ in our relationship to God's agenda, in our relationship to speech, and in our relationship to others.

## UNDERSTANDING

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Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**READ MATTHEW 6:19-21.**

**If you were completely honest with yourself, where would you say most of your treasures are?**

**According to this passage, what is the downside of storing up treasure on earth?**

**What is the advantage of storing treasure in heaven?**

Jesus warned against storing up worldly wealth and advised His followers to store up treasure in heaven. He drew a hard-and-fast line in connection with materialism, because one of the greatest rivals God has is worldly monetary success. We can have possessions and use them wisely, of course, but the very real threat exists that the possessor of wealth will worship it. This type of greed and idolatry will cause us to hold on to things for selfish purposes, and the best remedy for this kind of materialism is cheerful giving. However, just as we must not be selfishly motivated with our possessions, so also our giving must not be selfish. Jesus warned that our

giving ought to be done in secret, rather than announced publicly, which speaks loudly to the truth that God is interested in the motivation of our hearts.

**READ MATTHEW 6:25-34.**

**Why should God's children not worry about food, drink, or clothing?**

**Can you remember a time when God provided for you in such a way that you knew it was God? If so, describe the experience.**

**What in life do you worry about the most? With what needs in your life do you have difficulty trusting God?**

God provides for the birds and the lilies, so He will certainly provide for His children who are far more valuable. That being true, worry is pointless in view of God's care and provision for His children. Jesus expressly forbade worry about daily needs, and He even called anxiety pagan. Jesus pictured the heathen world as eagerly seeking their needs, but He told His followers to store up treasure in heaven where it cannot be corrupted or lost. Jesus Himself never worried, rushed, or even showed signs of concern about a schedule. His schedule was always more concerned with the ultimate work of God than anything else.

**READ JOHN 15:13-15.**

**Based on verse 13, what demonstrates the supreme love of a friend?**

**What does Jesus expect of His friend (v. 14)?**

**What is the difference between a servant and a friend (v. 15)?**

Jesus was a person who made many friends, and He loved His friends faithfully. In these verses, Jesus indicated His supreme act of love in laying down His life for His friends. As we see in this passage from John 15, Jesus moved from a Master-slave relationship with His disciples to a Friend-friend relationship, but still Jesus expected obedience from His friends. Just as Jesus did for us, we must be willing to give our lives for Him. It is the ultimate expression of love.

**READ 1 PETER 2:22-24.**

**What does this passage teach us about Jesus and how He used (or did not use) His speech?**

**What did Jesus' silence say about His faith in the Father?**

**When we are insulted, why is it our first instinct to retaliate?**

As we see in this passage, Jesus did not lie and He did not retaliate with words against His abusers. Instead, He demonstrated perfect temperance and self-control in His speech. Much of Jesus' speech was in teaching and preaching. His words were always appropriate and perfectly timed. Having the mind of Christ, we are to be careful and appropriate in our use of words.

## **APPLICATION**

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Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Why is it important for us to be careful about the way we speak?**

What material things are we tempted to place before Christ? How might we train ourselves to loosen our grip on these things?

## PRAYER

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Thank the Lord for choosing to be a friend of sinners. Ask Him to help you identify the things in your life (e.g. your relationships, your speech, your possession, etc.) that need fine tuning and then make the changes He desires.

## COMMENTARY

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MATHEW 6:19-34

6:19-20 Jesus emphasized the fleeting value of worldly wealth. The larvae of the moth could quickly destroy valuable fabrics that were treasured by the ancients. The word rust is literally “eating.” It can refer to the pitting of metal coins or to vermin that ruin valuable food stores.

6:21 Jesus taught that a person’s heart truly belongs to what it most treasures. Since a disciple is to love God with all his heart (22:37; Dt 6:4), love for material possessions and riches is a subtle form of idolatry (Col 3:5).

6:22-23 In Jewish writings, a good eye represented a generous attitude and a bad eye a stingy, miserly attitude. The bad eye (an improper perspective on wealth) results in a deep internal darkness, a moral blindness that diminishes the ability to see and pursue what is good.

6:25 Isn’t life more than food is a rabbinic style of argument. It reasons that if God does a greater thing for us, He will also do lesser things. Specifically, if God created

you (the greater accomplishment), He is certainly capable of feeding you (a lesser accomplishment).

6:26 Jesus here reversed His previous argument and reasoned that if God bothers to do a lesser thing (feed the birds), He will assuredly accomplish the greater thing of feeding humans.

6:27 The words translated as add a single cubit to his height probably refer to longevity (see textual note, “add one moment to his life-span”). Worry is futile and cannot prolong your life.

6:30 Jesus revealed that the real cause of anxiety is when disciples have little faith, meaning doubt about God’s power and disbelief in His desire to provide for His children.

6:32 Obsession with material possessions displays the warped priorities of idolaters (Col 3:5).

6:33 The disciple who values the reign of God over his life and who diligently pursues righteous living can trust God to satisfy his needs.

6:34 Jesus did not prohibit planning for the future, but He did prohibit worrying about it. He urged His disciples instead to focus on the challenges of the present.

**JOHN 15:13-15**

15:13-14 In the OT, only Abraham (2Ch 20:7; Isa 41:8), and by implication Moses (Ex 33:11), are called “friends of God.” Jesus extended this privilege to all obedient believers.

**1 PETER 2:22-24**

2:18-25 Peter commanded household slaves to submit to their masters by doing good, even though they might suffer unjustly. Such behavior brings favor with God. While doing so they are to remember Christ’s example, who suffered unjustly while submitting to God’s will. The phrase by His wounds (cp. Isa 53:5; sometimes

translated elsewhere as “stripes”) refers to the death of Christ and not to the flogging He suffered at the hands of Roman soldiers (Jn 19:1). By His death believers are healed spiritually.