

### Introduction

- To be discipled is to both learn and live out the \_\_\_\_\_ of the one that we have chosen to follow.
- More than just about anything else, how we view our \_\_\_\_\_ resources demonstrates what we truly love and who we truly serve.

**Key Point:** As disciples, we must consider Jesus' instruction and example regarding these things and, in light of them, reflect upon our own \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Old Testament Background: Israel's Affections and Actions

Having failed to trust the Lord to lead them into the land of Canaan, Israel was judged and forced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. As they came once again to the land, Moses gathered the people and exhorted them to love and serve the Lord.

#### 1. The condition of their \_\_\_\_\_ was of the utmost importance.

Deut. 10:12-13—<sup>12</sup> “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?

#### 2. They were to live as His \_\_\_\_\_, worshiping and obeying Him.

Deut. 10:20-21—<sup>20</sup> You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. <sup>21</sup> He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.

## Matthew 6:19-24 — Treasuring What Truly Matters

### The Sermon on the Mount

- Jesus' instructions are given here to those who would be His followers. As His disciples, their actions and affections must reflect the values of His Kingdom.

#### Matthew 6:19-21

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

#### 1. Jesus gives two clear commands that concern the *choices* that we make in life.

“lay up for yourselves” —θησαυρίζω (*thēsaurizō*) — To keep some material thing safe by storing it; to lay up, store up, gather.

⇒ To be His disciple means a shift in \_\_\_\_\_, learning to view material goods and their uses differently.

“treasure” — Literal:

Figurative:

#### 2. Jesus' uses contrasting imagery to force us to consider the *nature* of the things that we truly treasure.

(—) “on the earth”

(+) “in heaven”

#### 3. Jesus warns us that what we value the most will ultimately draw our hearts in *worship*.

**Key Point:** For followers of Jesus, our love for God and others must dictate how we \_\_\_\_\_ our wealth.

### Matthew 6:22-23

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

1. The imagery that Jesus employs forces us to consider whether or not we can *perceive* things properly.

(+) A healthy eye:

(—) A bad eye:

2. Jesus wants us to recognize the seriousness of being unable to properly *discern* what it is that we truly value.

**Key Point:** Followers of Jesus must be able to accurately differentiate between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ uses of material resources.

### Matthew 6:24

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

1. The imagery that Jesus uses is that of a *master* and his *servant*.

2. Jesus’ words force us to consider the identity of the one we serve:

(+) God

(—) Mammon

**Key Point:** Followers of Jesus must understand that one cannot simultaneously be devoted to both God and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Principles for Courageous Discipleship

- Material wealth in and of itself has not lasting, eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

James 5:13—<sup>1</sup> Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup> Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.

- To live well as a disciple of Jesus, we must focus our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on Him.

Col. 3:1-3—<sup>1</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- As disciples of Jesus, we are not “earth-dwellers” (Rev. 6:10) and so we must \_\_\_\_\_ our resources accordingly.