

# Wealth & Possessions Worry & Anxiety

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MATTHEW 6:19-34



## *Prayer to the Holy Spirit*

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**Heavenly King,**  
Advocate, Spirit of Truth,  
Who are everywhere present and fill all things,  
Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life,  
Come, and dwell within us;  
Cleanse us of all that defiles us,  
And, O Good One, save our souls.

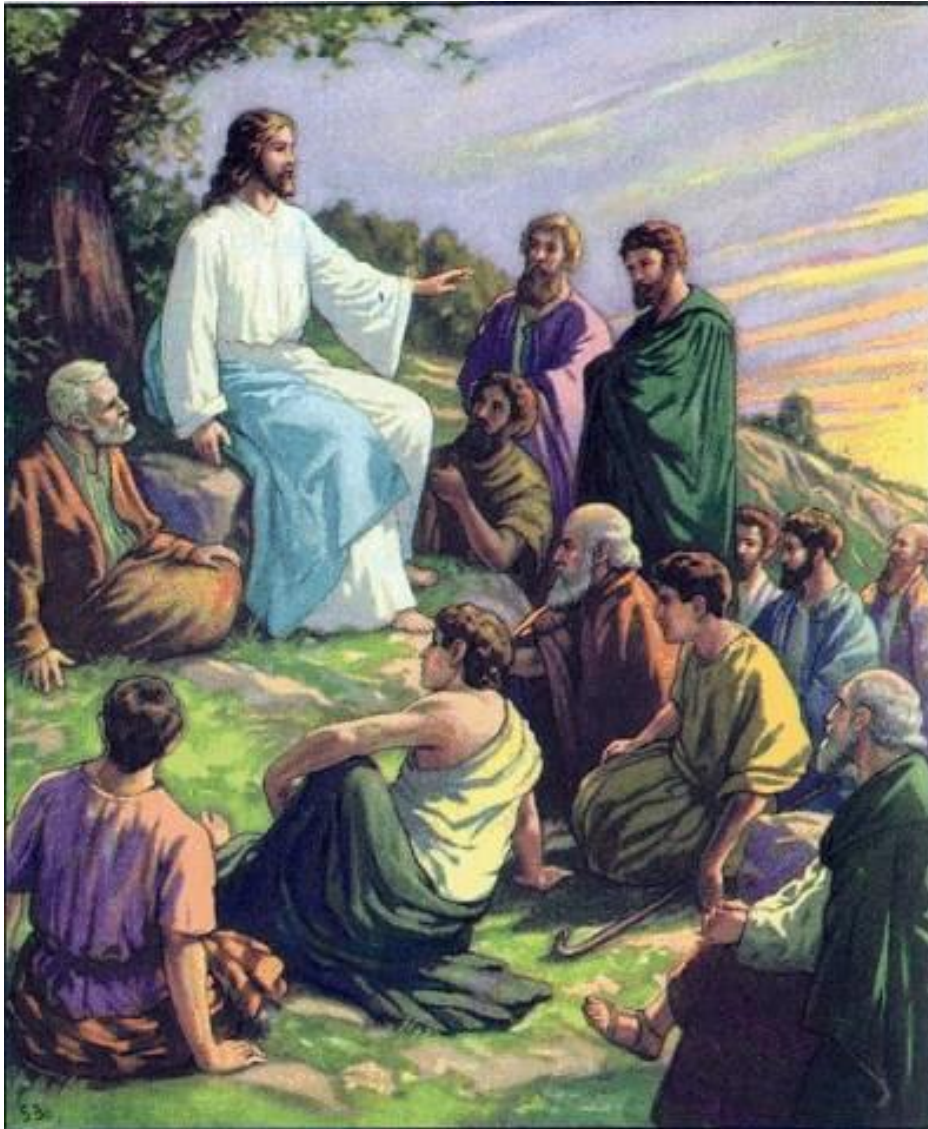
# Sadducees & Pharisees

**Pharisees** – Jewish sect; middle class; Torah (Written) & Oral Law; individual prayer/assembly; believed in afterlife; punishment/reward after death; resurrection of the dead & age to come

**Sadducees** – Jewish sect; upper social & economic class; Torah only; did not believe in immortality of the soul & resurrection of the dead; rewarded only in this life; no punishment/reward after death

Jesus gives His teaching...





# What is Jesus saying?

- ❑ Bank accounts? Investments? Save for future? – easy to misinterpret
- ❑ **Interpret in context of Holy Scriptures**
- ❑ St. Paul – parents save for their children (2 Cor 12:14)
- ❑ Proverbs – example of ant teaches to store (Prov 6:6)
- ❑ Law – right to private property
- ❑ Not all called to sell possessions



## How did people save in Jesus' time?

- ❑ **No banks; three ways of investing & saving for the future...**
- ❑ **Garments** – store and sell when necessary
- ❑ **Grain** – store and sell during times of famine (need barns)
- ❑ **Gold** – exchange assets for gold; hide or bury in field



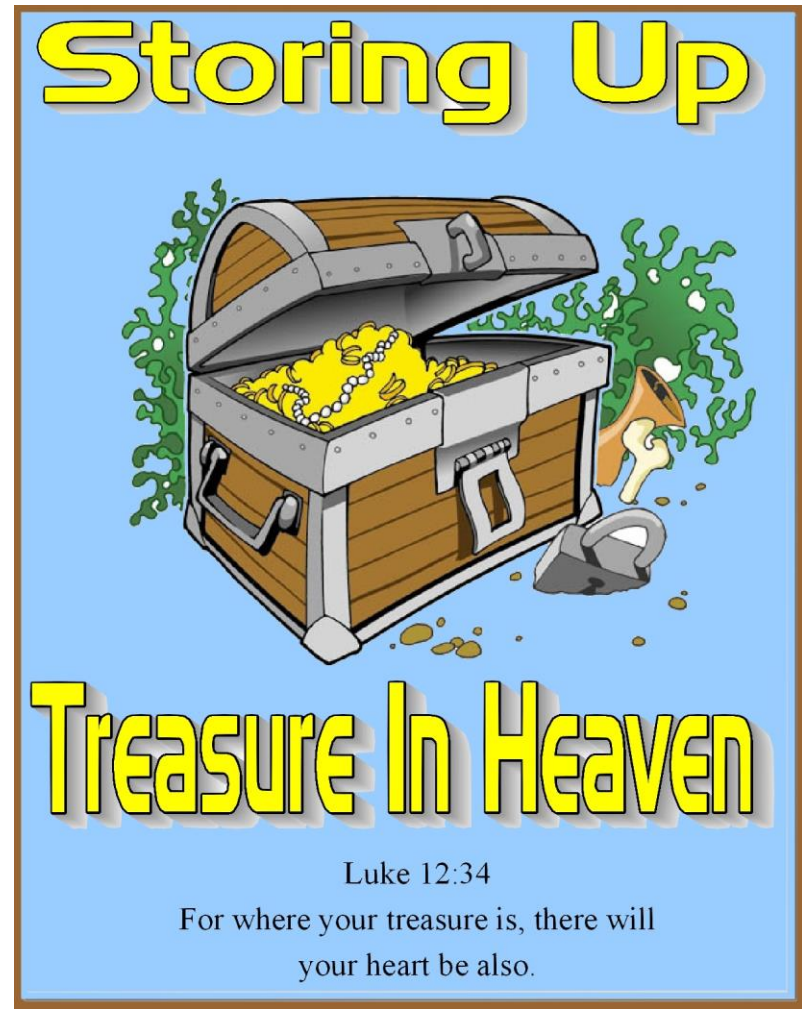
# Are my investments safe?



- ❑ **NO.** Jesus reminds us that there are no fully “safe investments”
- ❑ **Garments** – can be damaged by moths
- ❑ **Grain** – can be eaten by rodents; damaged by mold or fungi
- ❑ **Gold** – can be stolen by thieves
- ❑ **AND TODAY?**

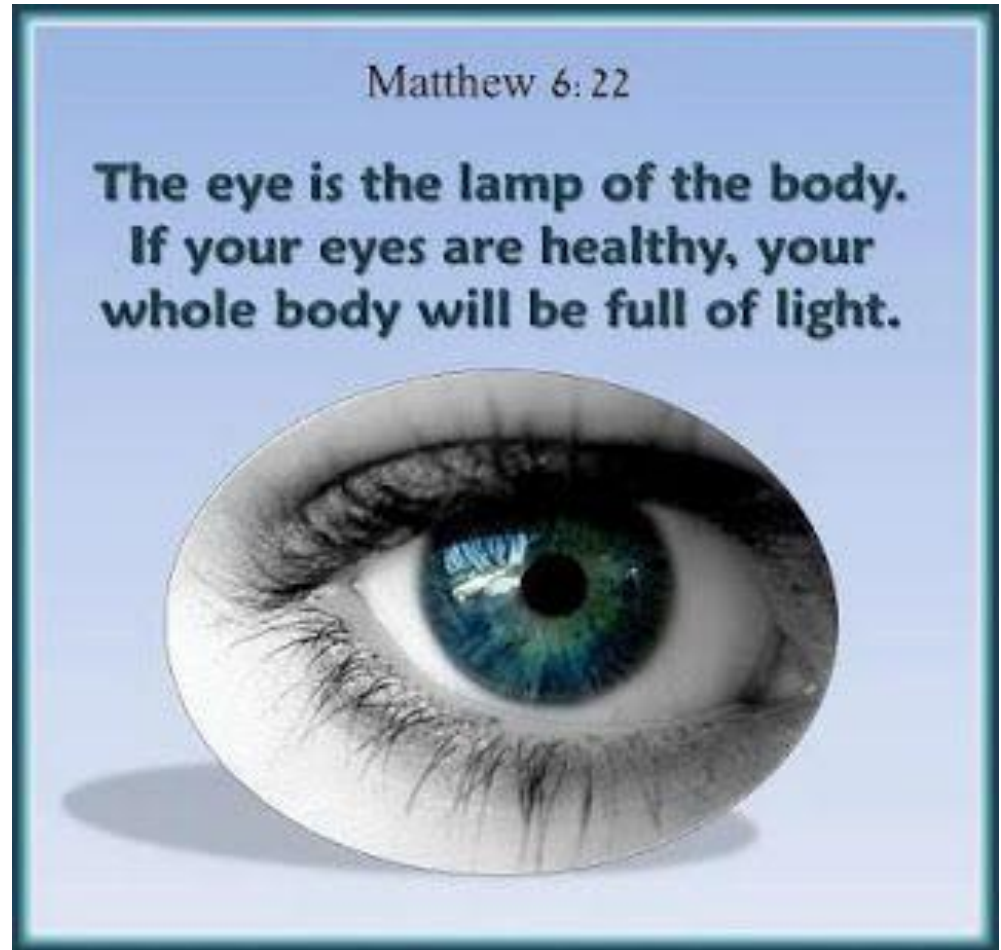
# Heavenly investments – secure for eternity!

- ❑ Jesus recommends storing treasures in heaven – only secure investment
- ❑ **What are the treasures?** – Good deeds: prayer, charity (acts of mercy, almsgiving), fasting...
- ❑ Christians are called to be “money changers” – take earthly capital and change it for the currency of heaven (permanent and secure for eternity)
- ❑ **“For where your treasure is your heart will be also.”**



# The eye – lamp of the body (6:22-23)

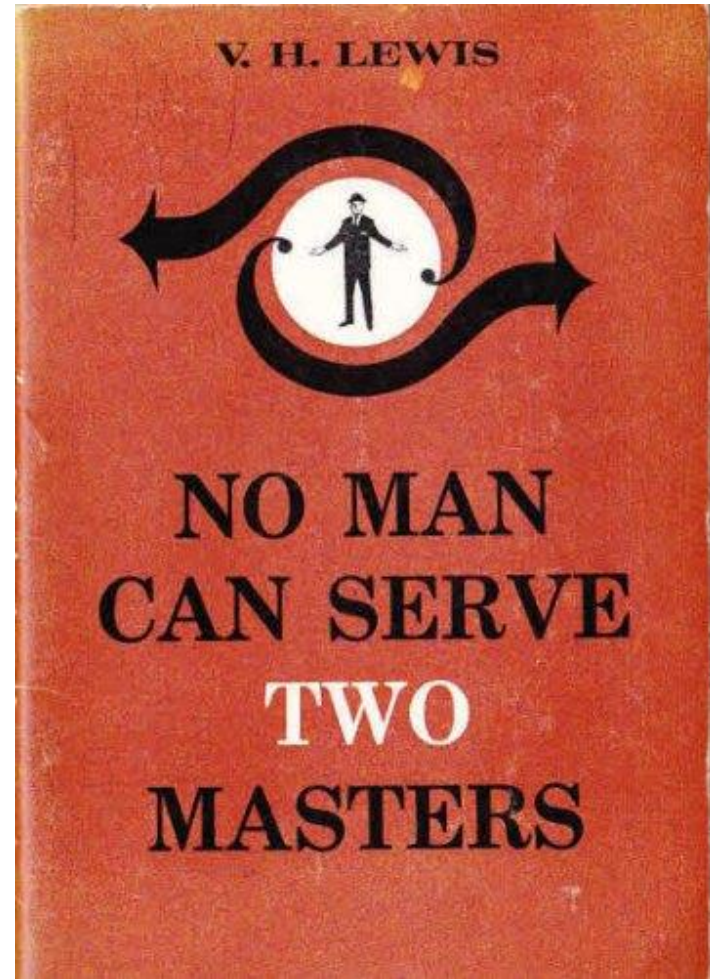
- ❑ *Simple illustration – open and close your eyes*
- ❑ *LIGHT = GOD*
- ❑ EYE = HEART (DESIRE)
- ❑ If heart is open to God; desire is for God and His Kingdom – filled with light
- ❑ If heart **desires** to have and to own; **attached** to wealth, possession, persons, and ideologies (not of God) = filled with darkness





# No one can serve two masters (6:24)

- ❑ **Slave** – property of master; on duty 24/7; master could kill his slave for disobedience
- ❑ **Slave to two Masters – impossible!** (2 sets of commands & expectations) – end up following one, disobeying the other
- ❑ **Love/hate** = devotion & service, honour; not feelings or emotions
- ❑ **Cannot serve both God and money;** will eventually turn back on one, and devote attention and service to the other



# Worry and Anxiety

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- ❑ Worry can make us sick
- ❑ Jesus don't not want us to *worry anxiously*. **"Do not be anxious about your life"**
- ❑ **Everyone needs to work**; but without being overly worried or anxious
- ❑ Worry is useless – it don't change anything
- ❑ Worry don't solve problems
- ❑ Worry shortens life
- ❑ Worry – a sign of lack of faith
- ❑ ***What should we worry about?***

A day of worry is more exhausting than a week of work. ~John Lubbock

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- ❑ “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well” (6:33)
- ❑ *Would I say that I live by this promise?*
- ❑ *Have I experienced the blessing of this promise in my life?*

# For Reflection & Consideration

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- Am I overly concerned about my savings and investments?
- What is my attitude towards prayer, charity, and fasting? Do I see it as treasure being invested in heaven?
- What desire rule my heart? Can I identify my desires, attachments? Do my desires invite light or darkness?
- Who is the Master of life? Whom do I honour and serve? Who gets my attention first?
- Am I generous when it comes to sharing my time, talents, money and possessions?
- Do I overly worry? Why do I worry?
- How do I deal with stress? Is it healthy?
- Can I honestly say that I live by the promise Jesus has given in Mt 6:33?