

True Treasure Beyond the Mirage
Active Faith Unleashed – Part 10
Life Church St. Louis – October 8, 2023
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV) “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Proverbs 23:4-5 (ESV) Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

1. Be careful what you _____

James 5:1-3 (ESV) Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 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.

James 5:4 (ESV) Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

James 5:5-6 (ESV) You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

2. Hang in there when it’s _____

James 5:7 (ESV) Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

James 5:8 (ESV) You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

James 5:9 (ESV) Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

3. Learn from people who never _____

James 5:10 (ESV) As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:11 (ESV) Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 5:12 (ESV) But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

True Treasure Beyond the Mirage Study Guide
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Intro. In what ways are earthly treasures like a mirage?

Explain what Matthew 6:19-21 teaches about earthly treasures.

What is wrong with seeking to accumulate wealth as a primary goal in life (Proverbs 23:4-5)?

How can you lay up treasure in heaven, rather than on the earth?

1A. What are the consequences of laying up treasure in the last days (James 5:1-3)?

1B. In what ways does greed lead people to take advantage of others (James 5:4)?

1C. What is wrong with living in luxury and self-indulgence (James 5:5-6)?

1D. In what ways are you rich in comparison to much of the rest of the world? How should you use the resources God has blessed you with?

2A. In what ways must we learn to be patient when life is difficult (James 5:7)?

2B. Why should we keep in mind that the coming of the Lord is at hand (James 5:8)?

2C. What is wrong with grumbling about others (James 5:9)?

2D. What should you focus your mind on in these last days?

3A. In what ways did the prophets show patience in the midst of suffering (James 5:10)?

3B. What does the story of Job teach us about facing difficulty in life (James 5:11)?

3C. What is wrong with using oaths in our speech (James 5:12)?

3D. How can biblical examples help you to live a godly life?