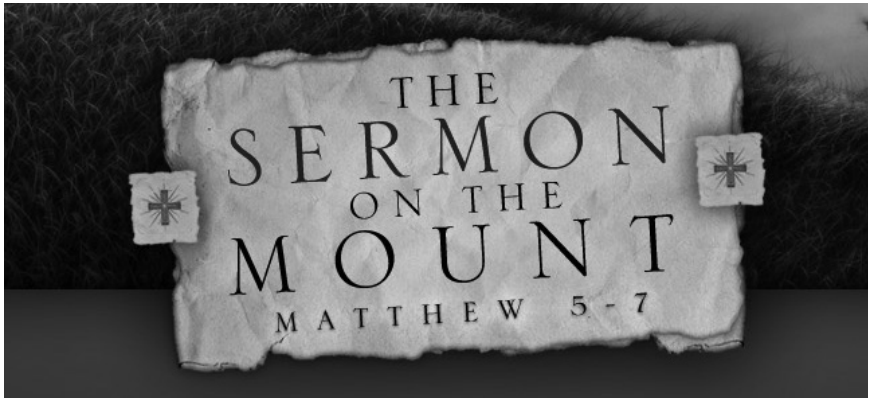

Sunday, July 25th, 2010 • Matthew 6:19-34

It is possible to be possessed by getting ahead or greed. First, we'll study how materialism can lead to idolatry and greed. Next, we'll study how materialism can lead to worry.

Observation

What does the text say?

1. (6:19-24) List 8 to 10 keywords in vss. 19-24. (Hint: look for words that describe the theme or are repeated.)
2. What theme that runs through vss. 1-15 continues in vss. 19-21? What ties these two sections together? (Hint: look at your key words.)
3. (6:25-34) How many times in this passage does the word "do not worry/do not be anxious/take no thought" occur?

Interpretation

What does the text mean?

1. (Luke 12:15-21) Read the Parable of the Rich Fool. What did Jesus condemn him for? Storing his harvest? What is the key verse in this passage? What is the context of this parable? How does this relate to the Sermon on the Mount?
2. (6:19-21) How does one "store up treasures in heaven"? What advantage does this have over accumulating earthly possessions?
3. (6:21) If you were to examine your values, how could you tell what your heart treasures most?
4. (6:24) Can wealthy people serve God? Why or why not? How does the pursuit of wealth tend to keep people from God? (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19) How does wealth sometimes serve as a substitute for God?
5. (6:19-21, 24) How can what we spend our time "storing" be an indicator of where our heart is? Of whom we are serving?
6. (6:33) This verse is well worth committing to memory. But what does it mean in the context of worrying about food and clothing? Why is this verse to key to understanding this whole chapter?

Application

What Does It Mean to Me?

1. The love of money can be a pretty subtle thing. Describe a time in your life when you were deceived about this, and when the light in you was really darkness.
2. What do you need to do to "set your house in order" concerning your use of and attitude toward money?
3. What has been your biggest struggle with worry about material things? How has God helped you trust him more? Where do you still need some work in this area?

Message Notes

Print out this outline and consider additional notes or questions from the message this Sunday.