

40-06-09.wpd—A Divine Grip on Our Earthly Trip
values, security, heart, light, darkness, devotion, service
Mat 6:19-24

Making Jesus King of our hearts gives all of life a Kingdom character.

INTRODUCTION:

—This sermon **title** summarizes the whole series. The *Sermon on the Mount* is about living out God's Kingdom here on earth. **HOM.idea.** There can be no half-way attitude, where Jesus is a Lord among many lords, sharing the *throne* of our hearts with other kings. He's either King, or He's not. That's the only way Kingdom living will *work*.

[**THE GUY WHO COULDN'T MAKE UP HIS MIND** by Dr. Seuss

Did I ever tell you about the young Zoad // Who came to two signs in the fork of the road // He looked one way and the other way too // The Zoad had to make up his mind what to do. // Well, the Zoad scratched his head, // And his chin, and his pants. // And he said to himself, // "I'll be taking a chance. // If I go to Place One, that place may be hot // So how will I know if I like it or not. // On the other hand, though, I'll feel such a fool // If I go to Place Two and find it's too cool // In that case I may catch a chill and turn blue. // So Place One may be best and not Place Two. // On the other hand, though, if Place One is too high, // I might get a terrible earache and die. // On the other hand, though, if Place Two is too low, // I might get some terrible pain in my toe // So Place One may be best." // And he started to go. // Then he stopped and he said, // "On the other hand though, // On the other hand, other hand, other hand though... // For thirty-six hours and one half that Zoad // Made starts and made stops at the fork in the road // Saying, "No, don't take a chance. It may not be right. // Then he got an idea that was wonderfully bright. // "Play safe," cried the Zoad, "I'll play safe, I'm no dunce. // I'll simply start off to both places at once." // And that's how the Zoad who would not take a chance // Went no place at all with a split in his pants.

—Jesus makes it very clear in this passage that there's no way to avoid a split in our lives, if we try having more than one King, more than one Lord. He uses three illustrations to show that successful Kingdom living requires a unique investment, a singular focus, and an exclusive commitment. *Let's look at the first of these....*

I. Investing Uniquely in God's Kingdom (v.19-21, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.")

A. God is not against us storing up treasures on earth—He's against storing them up **"for (ourselves)."**

1. Kingdom living is not about an *island lifestyle of individualism—Rom 14:7-8.* For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.
 2. Jesus said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (That covers everything and everyone! God's Kingdom connects us in some to everybody and everything else in existence.)
 3. The question is, "*If not for ourselves, then for whom do we store up treasures?*" ... they are for the King and for His will and His concerns about everything and everyone in His Kingdom.
- B. What are our *treasures*? What do we *highly prize*, highly *value*? We could each make a *long mental list*, if we really think about it.
1. God wants us to take our lists and invest our concepts of value in a Kingdom mindset—He asks us to lay our treasures at His feet.
 2. *If Jesus is King*, then He must rule over what's dear to our hearts in terms of time or possessions or activities or people—He can guide and direct our stewardship of those treasures, so that they are not lost through the *theft* and *decay* of time.

TRANS: By asking us to surrender our treasures into His hands, God is offering us "heart-break" prevention. He is offering us His own joy, the *joy of Kingdom living*—Rom 14:17, For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking [**not a matter of earthly values**] but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **When Jesus is King of our hearts, life takes on a Kingdom character.** *Successful Kingdom living also requires...*

II. Focusing Directly on God's Kingdom (v.22-23, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!")

- A. What Jesus does here is to illustrate our inner view of the outward world by using the eye's relationship to the body (in other words, *how we view life*) His whole sermon is about viewing life in the holy light of Kingdom living: a divine grip on our earthly trip.
 - B. Only by focusing on the King can we see with adequate light, because without His will involved, our own will dims every light, sometimes even to the point of darkness (for instance... [E. S. J.]):
1. **Worshiping God** is *light*, but if it dims a view of our duty to

- serve our fellow man, that *good light* can become *darkened*.
2. **Serving others** is *light*, but if it interferes with our fellowship with God, it can become darkness, and we can stumble in it.
 3. **Self-denial** is *light*, but if we use it and trust in it as a means of gaining righteousness, it becomes a dark form of asceticism.
 4. **The cross** is *light*, but if it stays on a steeple or on a chain around the neck without reaching into the hearts Jesus died to save, even the cross, as a symbol, can grow dim and even dark.

TRANS: [E. S. Jones heard of a new society some Hindu students formed called, "The Society for the Confession of Sins," but when asked if its members found it hard to confess their sins to each other, they replied, "*Oh no, it is not difficult, for we do not confess our own sins, but other people's sins.*"] That society has a large and growing membership! How easy to shine light on the darkness of others, but Jesus calls this kind of light *great...darkness. By focusing directly on the Kingdom, we focus on the King who died to purchase pardon for sins.* In that holy light, **our view of life and people takes on a Kingdom character.** *Finally, successful Kingdom living requires...*

- III. Committing Exclusively to God's Kingdom (v.24, "No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.")**
- A. Why does Jesus illustrate this conflict of loyalties with Money? *Did He know that economy and business would one day dictate almost every aspect of life in the civilized world? Yes He did, and it does.*
 - B. **Is this how life should run?** No! Why not? Because, if Jesus is King, then *Kingdom values* dictate the King's will for every aspect of life in the civilized world and everywhere else in the universe!
 - C. Jesus, by demanding *exclusive allegiance*, doesn't nullify any other legitimate area of human activity, including *commerce* and *Money*, but He knows that no area in our human condition can give us the "righteous, peace and joy" of Kingdom living that He alone can give.

CONCLUSION:

– Don't be like Dr. Seuss's Zoad, getting "no place at all with a split in his pants." At every "fork in the road," **make Jesus King of your heart, and all aspects of your life will take on a Kingdom character.**

Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)

- 19"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.
- 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
- 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 22"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.
- 23But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!
- 24"No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.