

# Weekly Study Guide

The Week of October 20, 2013

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Matthew 6:19-21	Tuesday	James 5:1-6	Wednesday	Luke 12:13-21
Thursday	Matthew 6:22-23	Friday	Matthew 20:1-16 ("envious" in v. 15 = "evil eye")	Saturday	Matthew 6:24

*My notes on this week's readings...*

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Why Do You Worry?*

**Next week's readings:** Matthew 6:25-34

Worry is a heavy burden to bear but a regular feature of life. Jesus shows us why it's not needed in a life with Him. Join us next week as we learn how to find freedom from our worry and fear.



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# Group Discussion

Connect

Have you ever seen or read or story about treasure hunting? Do you have a favorite?

Learn

Read **Matthew 6:19-21**.

- In **v. 19** Jesus starts this section by warning his followers not to store up “treasure on earth.” His reasoning is very common sense. According to this verse, what’s the problem with treasure on earth? Have you ever experienced this?
- In **v. 20** Jesus says that “treasure in heaven” will last, but he doesn’t say what treasure in heaven is. Based on what Jesus has already been teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, what do you think of when you hear “treasure in heaven”? How do you think one pursues treasure in heaven?
- **V. 21** says that our treasures and our hearts will be in the same place. Why do you think it works that way? Have you ever invested your treasure in something and noticed that your heart followed it? Have you ever had your heart set on something and noticed that your treasure followed it?

**Matthew 6:22-24** is full of ancient symbolism that might not be familiar to the contemporary reader. In the 1st century it was thought that a person’s eyes shined light out from inside their body onto the world and thus enabled sight. It was also thought that a person’s facial expression revealed their internal character. A person with “healthy eyes” was trustworthy, kind, and generous. A person with “unhealthy eyes” or who gave you “the evil eye” was unfriendly, stingy, and selfish.

- Read **v. 22-23** with this in mind. Jesus says your external demeanor will reveal your internal disposition. Have you ever seen this in your experience?
- Read **Matthew 6:24** Jesus addresses our divided loyalties. Do you ever feel like you are trying to serve 2 (or more!) masters? Can you imagine a way to reduce that conflict in your life?

Apply

In this passage Jesus has spoken directly to the issue of how we use our money and material resources, and he has made a connection between our money and our hearts. What do you think God might be saying to you about this today and how do you plan to respond to that?

Pray

Last week we learned to pray “give us today our daily bread.” In your prayers today, pray for any practical needs that you may have and pray for any whose needs are not met. You might wish to simply use the words of Matthew 6:9-15 as part of your prayer today.