

Matthew 6:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Analysis

Jesus reveals the heart diagnostic: 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also' (Greek: ὅπου γάρ ἐστιν ὁ θησαυρός σου, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδιά σου). This isn't merely 'what you treasure reveals your heart' but causally stronger - your treasure determines your heart's location. The 'heart' (καρδία) represents the center of affection, loyalty, and worship. We follow our investments; our passions align with our portfolios. This is diagnostic tool - examine where you invest time, energy, and resources to discover what you truly worship. Financial discipleship is spiritual discipleship because money habits reveal and shape heart orientation.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean culture operated on patron-client relationships where one's treasure (whether serving a patron or being one) determined social location and loyalties. Jesus subverts this by making God the ultimate patron worthy of exclusive loyalty. Early Christian communities practiced economic sharing that demonstrated their treasure was in kingdom values, not personal wealth accumulation (Acts 4:32-37). This verse challenges both ancient and modern economics of self-interest.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. If someone examined your calendar, bank statement, and thought life, what would they conclude you treasure?
2. How do our investment choices shape, not just reveal, our heart's affections?
3. What practical steps can reorient your treasure toward eternal rather than temporal things?

Interlinear Text

ὅπου γάρ ἐστιν ὁ θησαυρὸς ὑμῶν ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ
where **For** **is** G3588 **treasure** **your** **there** **be** **also** G3588
G3699 G1063 G2076 G2344 G5216 G1563 G2071 G2532

καρδία ὑμῶν
heart **your**
G2588 G5216

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:18 (Parallel theme): While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Luke 12:34 (Parallel theme): For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Proverbs 4:23 (Parallel theme): Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Isaiah 33:6 (Parallel theme): And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.

Hebrews 3:12 (Parallel theme): Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Jeremiah 4:14 (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

Matthew 12:34 (Parallel theme): O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Acts 8:21 (Parallel theme): Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Jeremiah 22:17 (Parallel theme): But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.

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