

Clear Contrasts

Jesus Casts a Clear Contrast today

- choose a team
- fly a flag
- pick a camp
- a non choice is a choice

Matthew 6:19-24

Clear Contrasts

"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. "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! "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."

Clear Contrasts

1. Treasure – Here or There

- treasure – worth seeking, valuable, worth protecting
- evidently not wrong to desire or seek – issue of where

a) Temporal Gain

- stuff – deteriorates, breaks down, can be stolen
- passing – ours for a short time, devalues
- clear we are not to have this focus
- big issue – can consume my heart, desires and focus, and lead me to folly

Clear Contrasts

b) Eternal Gain

- store up treasure in heaven

*Key Truth Not To Miss

- heaven is not based on equality for all residents
- Two Main Issues Bible Addresses

1. Is Your Name Written In Book Of Life?

2. You Will Give an Account of Your Life, and Rewards will be Given!

Clear Contrasts

1 Corinthians 3:8-15 *“The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.”*

- vs.8 rewarded according to labor
- vs.12 what you build with matters
- vs. 13-14 – tested, revealed and rewarded by God

Clear Contrasts

- Eccl. 12:14 – ***“For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. “***

- Matthew 25:31-40 - ***“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’***

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Clear Contrasts

- Luke 15:31 – Prodigal Son
- Not wrong to store up treasure in Heaven
 - encouraged to do so, rewards will be eternal

c) Treasure Reveals Your Heart

- greatest command – Love the Lord your God with All Your Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength
- Seek 1st the Kingdom of God....
- So Far in Chapter 6 – Father who sees what is done will reward you! – 3 times
- Hearts focused on God – changes your treasure

Clear Contrasts

2 Truth

- light and darkness – truth & lies, good & evil

a) What You See Determines Your Course

- driving at night with headlights:
 - avoid obstacles, navigate road, choose course
- truth – God's Word & Way Critical to Navigation
- eyes good – heart is full of light

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- Romans 1:18-22 ***“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools”***

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- Proverbs 1:22 ***“How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?”***
 - Matthew 7:26 – ***“But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. “***
 - truth (light) is available to you – how are your eyes?
- b) Not Having the Truth is Tragic
- how great the darkness
 - crashing, wreckage, destruction - pain

Clear Contrasts

3. Trust

- where is your hope placed, your trust anchored?
- Money a touchy topic – personal, private
- real issue – do I trust God to provide, or is my trust in my own security?

a) Cannot be divided on This Issue

- impossible to have a foot in both camps
- serving two masters is not a position you can take
- if money is driving us – affects generosity, affects giving, affects things, affects choices – consumes us

Clear Contrasts

- if God is the Master – all I have is a gift, He will provide for my needs, things are blessings to be used, I am free to pass on what He grants.

b) Clear that Money Can Take Place that Belongs to God

- not wrong to have money or things
- what place they hold in your heart the issue
- how you honor God with them reveals your heart

Clear Contrasts

So What

Have to Pick a Team – choose carefully

Re-evaluate your position – check often where you are!

1. Where Am I Building Treasure?

- is stuff important to me? Am I a slave to payments? Do I long for what I don't have? Am I thankful for what I do have?

- Do I Understand Storing Up Treasure in Heaven?

- God sees, will judge and reward my heart, motives and actions. How will this change my priorities and time investments?

Clear Contrasts

2. Do I Know and Interact With Truth?

- How much light am I driving with?
- Do I Know God's Word on – parenting, family, serving, money, priorities, work....?
- am I willing to seek, meditate, spend the time to find out?

3. Where is My Trust Really Placed?

- retirement fund, bank balance, economy?
- do I believe that generosity, giving, use of resources God's way brings blessing, and I can trust Him with tomorrow?