

Matthew 6:19-24**Sort your life out!****Warm Up**

What is the most valuable thing you own? How do we measure worth? With money, or how much something means to us?

Are you a collector? What is your best collection? What other things do we treasure in life?

Background and context

So far in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has highlighted how we ought to live, challenged us not to do certain things and identified our motives for acting as being significant. In this passage we get a powerful message that reminds us that we have choices to make. What is it we chase after in life? Temporary wealth, fame and success, or an eternal treasure kept for us in heaven? We are warned to be careful what we choose. We cannot choose both!

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Matthew 6:19-24. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. How would you sum up the passage in one sentence? (Have a go. Get some paper and pens. Share your answers)
2. What do you understand to be the key theme of the passage? Where do you see it in the text?
3. **In v24** The word **mammon** is used (modern translations say money). Mammon means success, wealth, and possessions. Is Jesus saying it is wrong to have these?
4. It is clear that earthly treasure is temporary and heavenly treasure eternal. But how do we store up treasure in heaven? What does it involve?
5. **In v21.** Jesus wants us to examine our hearts. What are our deepest desires? What are we chasing after in life? These are our treasures. Discuss what should be the difference between a follower of Jesus and a non believer. Is there always a vast difference? Why?
6. How would you interpret v22-23? How does it link to the previous verses 19-21?
7. Why is it so challenging for many people to make the choice to follow Jesus?

Discipleship and Application

8. What are the kind of things that Christians cling on to from their "old life", that may be sinful or distracting from total commitment to the Lord?
9. Ask the holy Spirit to "sort your life out!" To de clutter the things that you cling to that prevent the Holy Spirit having full control.

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.