

**Matthew 6:19-24**  
**Life-Giving Giving**

### Warm Up

What stops us being generous? Lack of money? Suspicion of being fleeced? Or just a mean spirit? When my wife visited India, she experienced amazing generosity from the poorest people. Why?

### Background and context

This passage comes in the middle of the Sermon On The Mount. It is surrounded by passages about sacrifice, helping the needy and not being anxious about the future. The theme seems quite clear; where does our priority lie? With God or with our possessions and wealth? If we place our trust in money and possessions we will ultimately miss out on the blessings God has in store for us. But if we put our faith in God and hold loosely to our wealth, we will receive so much more. An eternal treasure that cannot be stolen or destroyed.

### 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. Current attitudes in the western world suggest the accumulation of wealth is one of the best things we can achieve. Why? What is the thinking behind it?
2. How does this passage challenge current attitudes on money?
3. **Read v21.** What are the outward signs that reveal where your heart is and what your treasure is?
4. What does it mean to store up treasure in heaven? What do those treasures look like?
5. Why are these treasures in heaven more valuable than earthly treasure?
6. **Read v22-3.** How do you understand these verses?
7. How can money deceive us and warp our attitudes and ethics?
8. **Read v24.** It is clear that Jesus wants us to make a choice between holding worldly attitudes about money and devotion to God. Why can't we do both?
9. If you were to sum up the passage in one sentence, what would it be? Why not divide into pairs and work on a summary sentence. Then feed back to the rest of your group.
10. Does a reliance on and over dependence on financial security lessen our faith in Jesus? How?

### Discipleship and Application

11. When do you feel drawn to trusting money rather than trusting in God?
12. John Wesley said: "Earn as much as you can, waste as little as you can and give away as much as you can." (paraphrase) Do you think this is sound advice?



**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.