



**Red Letter City**  
**Treasures**  
**Sunday, July 10, 2016**  
**Courage Church, Detroit, MI.**

We are in a series right now called “Red Letter City” - it is a journey through the entire sermon on the mount. One that that makes this series, which is obviously a very long series, not feel so long... is the way that Jesus kind of breaks it all up, its almost like we are able to do multiple series inside of the series.

So of course we began with “The Beatitudes” which we covered mostly on Thursday’s at EQUIP... and then we went into “Salt and Light” and “The law” which were a bit more framework into the rest of the sermon on the mount...

The we got to a place where, for several of the sections, Jesus began by saying things like “you have heard that it was said \_\_\_\_\_ but I say...”

and we covered the heart behind issues like anger, and lust, divorce and oaths.

Then we took two weeks to really dive into enemy love, which I really believe is incredibly timely in our world right now with everything that keeps happening with the police, and with the terrorists, and just all sorts of issues that break our hearts every time we turn on the news... and we tried our best to answer questions like: How do I respond to this?

Then we did a three part section on the works of righteousness and the intention behind them... giving, praying and fasting.

And today we are beginning another section. Jesus goes into another issue, that he begins here in the middle of Matthew 6, and he carries it over

into Matthew 7. Again, like we have told you several times, the bible was not written in chapter and verse, it was just written.

It wasn't until 1551 that the New Testament was broken up that way, and it was done mainly to help us read it and find certain things easier.

So for the next few weeks we are going to dive into an issue that I believe controls a lot of our lives. and that issue is the issue of "control."

Whether you admit it or not, nobody likes to feel like they are not in control of their situation.

But as we journey through these next several sections in the sermon on the mount, you will start to see how trying to control one area of your life, leads to you trying to control ALL the areas of your life. and then, according to what Jesus shows is in the sermon on the mount... that then leads you to trying to control area's of OTHER people's lives... and then before long, it finds you trying to control ALL areas of OTHER peoples lives.

and suddenly, you have made yourself judge over a situation that you have no business being judge over. But it started with the areas of your own life that you wouldn't relinquish control over.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, essentially - "My life is not my own." He tells us our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and he puts it this way:

"You are not your own."

In Acts 20:24 it says that "I counts my life as nothing, and my only aim to complete the task that the Lord has given me."

But most of us like the idea of being loved by Jesus more than we do the idea of serving him. and what Jesus says in this section about control is essentially, the life of a Kingdom person should look different than the life of a person that is not a part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

A Kingdom person gives up control of their entire life, for the sake of the gospel.

And Jesus begins this, by talking about the one thing that everybody has the absolute hardest time giving control over on...

and that is money.

So as you are all gasping and reaching for your wallets to make sure that they are still near by... lets open our bibles to Matthew 6:19-24 -

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys 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. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

“No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.”

Lets Pray.

As always, there is so much packed into so few words. And I have said this before, but I didn't realize that as I unpacked the sermon on the mount and taught on it piece by piece instead of just briefly and broadly, that I was going to be faced with just about every absolutely difficult topic to address in the church. No pastor wants to get up and talk about money. Especially in a church like this, that serves relentlessly and gives graciously already.

But Jesus talked about it a whole lot. Around half of his parables had to do with money, and when he talks about the final judgment in Matthew 25, much of it seems to be linked to generosity, so to not talk about a subject that has control over the majority of the world would be an incredible disservice to you.

And what I am going to do is I am going to, sort of, as best as I can, fly through the beginning of this and focus the majority of our time on the last line... “No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.”

Because there are some things hidden in there that I believe that if we can get a grip on what it is saying, it could change everything about your entire life. But you will have to buckle up when we get there, because it will be a journey! and it is going to be a little hard to hear.

But first, Jesus says this “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

There are two very important questions that we need to answer from this section... the first is, How do we lay up treasures in heaven?

Paul, in his first letter to Timothy (6:18-19) tells us that the way we lay up treasure in heaven is by our good works and our generosity toward others.

This is the way he puts it:

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Paul says we store up treasure, By the things we give away.

It is an upside down Kingdom.

See, on earth, we lay up treasures by keeping. By opening bank accounts and saving, and putting money into retirement funds and by buying the things that make us happy. But in the Kingdom of Heaven, the way we store up treasure is by living our lives outwardly. Always looking for the needs. Always looking for ways to invest in people.

Now... what I believe to be an even more important question...

## WHAT ARE TREASURES IN HEAVEN?

There seems to be a pretty direct correlation between what Jesus says here, and with the words written in Malachi 3. Now, most of us who have studied the bible know that Malachi 3 is the strongest case for tithing in the bible... and it definitely says to tithe, but there is even more packed into it than that.

Malachi 3:16, which is the section immediately following the section on the tithe, talks about something called "The Book of Remembrance."

and its pretty fascinating. It talks about those who feared the Lord and because of it, they were written into this "book of remembrance." and for everyone written in it, God says "They shall be mine, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, I will spare them as a man spares his son."

So there God tells us, that his treasured possession is people.

So when I hear "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" I see it as you and I doing the things that show Jesus to the world (good deeds, generosity)... so that they can acknowledge him, and they can be written into that book of remembrance and become one of Jesus' many treasures.

So, treasures to God, are people. This is crucial.

Stuff doesn't matter. You can have a mansion. and a garage filled with cars and motorcycles, and every room could have a 65 inch 4K TV mounted on the wall and an iPad sitting on every end table. And you can send your kids to the best schools and go on all the best vacations... and if that is your treasure now, then you have stored up a treasure where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

The literal here is: "Where thieves dig under" - because in Jesus' day houses were built much differently than they are now, they were typically

made of a mud stone... and the way people broke into homes, was they would dig through them.

And this is what was so significant about that... for most people, everything they had was in their home. It wasn't like today where we have all of these fancy accounts and insurance policies... it was all at home.

But home's weren't all that secure.

so in a moments time a thief could dig through their house, and take everything. Their life savings, everything they had ever worked for.

In a moment.

Gone.

Here today. Gone Tomorrow.

Sound familiar? Our lives are a vapor.

It all rots. It burns. It is fleeting and in the scope of our eternity our stuff has NO VALUE.

We already know about moths and rust.

We know what rust does to a car... you can spend 35,000 dollars on a car and 15-20 years from now, unless you worked overtime to keep that thing in good shape... that car is going to be rusty, broken, and worthless.

It will not last. I once bought an *old* mercedes from a guy for twelve hundred dollars. Ten years before that, someone bought that same car for \$65,000.

Stuff wears out. It rusts. It fades. It breaks down. It happens to them all, eventually.

But here is a life principle:

Even if your stuff doesn't wear out, you eventually will.

The same thing that happened to every other person in history will happen to you. Life will come to an end, and you will give an account for everything that you have done.

And if your life was about stuff... well... it all belongs to someone else now. and you will be left in eternity with nothing.

and as you stand at the judgment seat of Christ you will stand there empty handed because you brought no treasure before the throne. No people.

Then Jesus goes on to say one of the most famous things he ever said:

“where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Jesus is telling us that money is so powerful in our lives, that he knows what is in our hearts by the way that we use it. It reveals to him, and to the world, what is truly important to us.

People! People matter.

Now... you have to take this concept.... Make a mental note. Hold it in your heart forever. and we will get back to it.

The second thing that Jesus says here is this:

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

One of the key themes we have covered throughout this series has been “the eye.” Very early on we talked about how the Hebrew word picture for “iniquity” is an eye, a hook, and fish multiplying... and the Hebrew principle behind that is “Whatever your eye hooks to, multiples.”

and most of us, when we think about concepts like this, we primarily think about the kind of issues that we have talked about already in this series.

We think about lust. We think about anger. We think about food. We think about the things that we *realize* have a hold on our lives but Jesus is telling us as clear as day...

Money is an issue of the eye.

See, here is the truth about money. Most everybody thinks that they don't have enough of it. In fact, I don't think that people in general, lust for anything more than do for money.

Because everybody weighs their worth on scale against a person who has more than they do. The person who makes \$20,000 a year thinks that they are poor, because the person sitting next to them makes \$50,000 a year. But the person who makes \$50,000 a year sees that his brother-in-law makes \$120,000 a year, and he sees that, and then he has something new to strive after.

and so we are all striving for more. All the time.

but the problem with that is we are never content in what we have and so we miss what is right in front of us because our eye has already hooked to whatever it will take to get more.

And Jesus is telling us, "if that is what your eye is doing... your whole body is unhealthy. (in darkness)"

Why?

Because if your eye is not working, then you are blind. Think about this from a spiritual perspective for a moment. If you can't see the difference between right and wrong...

then your entire life is going to be a constant progression of going the wrong way. If you can't even see that you are greedy... then what is ever going to stop you from being greedy?

You will walk a darker and darker path and you will be blind to it the whole time. And that is the power that money has over people. It has this way of



getting control over us when we think that we have control over it. It makes us blind....

Now, pay close attention to this. Please. and hear this with an open heart. Please.

Jesus ends this little section about money by saying:

“No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.”

There is SO MUCH to this.

The word money there is the word *mamōnas* - or perhaps you have heard it this way: “mammon.”

You can't serve God and mammon.

Now, this is the ONLY thing that Jesus said “you can't serve God and serve this thing.” so there is obviously something incredibly contrasting between God, and Mammon.

and this word is often translated as money, but it really doesn't mean money, it really means *riches*, and it really is even deeper than that. Pastor Robert Morris has an amazing sermon on the subject of Mammon, it is called “Breaking the Spirit of Mammon” because Mammon is a Spirit. If you want to look it up it is easy to find... it will change your view of giving forever... it propelled the study that I am about to share with you.

Mammon is the name that was given to “the Syrian god of riches.”

If you were to search on the internet the phrase “Syrian god of riches” all that would come up in the results would be “Mammon”... and if you search either one “Syrian god of riches” or just search “Mammon” you would start continuously come across a place written about in the bible called Babylon. Because Revelation 18 records the fall of this place... a place that had been given over to the spirit of Mammon.

Rewind all the way back to Genesis.

Genesis 11 tells the story of the moment that God confused all of the languages of the earth. It starts by saying that “the whole earth had one language” - and they started seeing the power that they had, and this is what they said:

“Let us make a name for ourselves.” (Gen. 11:4)

and so they set out to build this great city and in that city they built a tower with the goal being that it would reach the heavens...

and God looked down at what was happening, and he saw a problem.

A very big problem.

They were building a tower to heaven. But something much bigger was happening. This wasn't about them trying to build the first skyscraper. They had come to a point in which they thought that they could do whatever they wanted. They didn't need God. They didn't need God to get to heaven, they could build a tower to heaven on their own.

They could control their own lives and control their own society and they could build it all the way that *they* wanted to.

They had grown stronger and more powerful. So what God does, just to remind them who is really in control... is he confuses their languages and he dispersed the people. Suddenly people who the day before were communicating together and building this temple of control... no longer understood each other. And from there, they dispersed.

Leaving this unfinished tower and this unfinished city called Babel.

Which would later be known as “Babylon”

A word that literally means “planted in confusion.”

It is a city that from day one tried to make it on their own. It tried to control its destiny. It was birthed out of the false idea that they can build their own way to heaven, that they can make their own way on earth.

Everything about it is pride. It is self indulgence. It is arrogance.

It is A great city that Revelation 18 says will be completely given over to what scholars refer to as “the Spirit of Mammon.”

Now, mammon means “riches” but what drives it is the illusion that says “I don’t need God!” “I can make it on my own.”

Pastor Jimmy Evans says it this way:

"Mammon promises us those things that only God can give—security, significance, identity, independence, power, and freedom. Mammon tells us it can insulate us from life’s problems and that money is the answer to every situation."

Why do you think that Jesus says that it is so hard for a person who has great earthly riches to make it to heaven? In fact Jesus goes so far as to say “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

He is saying “its really hard.”

But it is not because he has too much money... it is because he has too much pride.

It is because he is able to solve all of his problems with money.

and because of that, he thinks that he has all of that wealth because of something that *he* did. There is a spirit living in him, and that spirit is Mammon.

And ALL money has a spirit that rests on it.

It all does.

It either has the Spirit of God on it, and is blessed... or it has the spirit of mammon.

This is why tithing is so incredibly important for your life. The bible says that when you tithe, you rebuke the devourer from your life. He can't touch your money, because when you give the first to God, and look generously for ways to use the rest... his spirit rests on it.

Now... I am going to say this to you because its important to understand these principles. If you have been here for even a couple of weeks, you probably notice that we don't pass offering buckets around... a lot of weeks we don't even mention giving at all, and the reason for that is that we believe that giving is an act of worship... it is between you and God.

and One of the names for God is "Jehovah Jireh" which means "The Lord will provide." - and we truly believe with all of our hearts that God provides all of the needs of those who are doing his work. But the system that God set up to provide for his church on a regular basis is the tithe.

His system is the tithe. And if everyone who was a part of their church communities tithed to the their church, they would be able to meet all of the needs in that community. The bible literally says in Malachi... if you tithe... there will be NO needs.

and a lot of people refute the concept of tithing as being "old covenant."

and it is. The principle is laid out in the Old Testament.

But if you say that, what you don't understand is that the tithe, just like the ten commandments and other amazing principles in the old testament... part of why Jesus died was so that these things would not be bondage in your life anymore... but they are still the principles behind the BEST KIND OF LIFE.

Do you believe that every promise in the old testament became null and void in the same way that you believe every command did?

With these principles come promises!

and the principles in and of themselves show what you put your faith in. That is why mammon is so powerful. That is why you can't serve God and Mammon... Because you have faith in one of them.

If you don't give anything, Jesus still loves you, he still died for you. His grace is still available to you... but you don't have real faith in Him. You can't serve both.

Next thing People say is this: Jesus never talked about tithing!

sort of. kind of.

It is true that the only time you really get tithing principles laid out is in the old testament. HOWEVER... Jesus does say that we should tithe. In Matthew 23:23 he cries out a woe to the scribes and Pharisees, because they put all of their effort into tithing but they neglected the weightier matters of the law... things like Justice and Mercy and Faithfulness.

But right after that, he says "you ought to have done both." He says, you should tithe, and you should not neglect the weightier matters of the law. It is all a part of a well rounded life.

But it is not bondage. It is life!

And if you don't tithe, God will still provide for his church... He always has. And if you don't tithe, God still loves you.

But I am telling you, for your sake...

you should tithe.

And when I say tithing, this is what I mean. Malachi 3:10 says "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house."

a tithe is the first ten percent of your income.

Before it says this, it says that the people who weren't doing this have been robbing God... so he says... "you guys are thieves" and right after it says this, it says something very unique in the bible.

God tells the people, "test me on this."

There are lots of times in the bible when people put God to the test. But this is the only time that He tells them too.

its the only thing in the whole bible that God issues a challenge like that. He says "SEE IF I WON'T open the heavens and pour down a blessing until there is NO MORE NEED."

If everyone tithes... there are no needs.

Its actually incredibly practical. The church of Acts brought everything together, and then there were no needs among them. So if you want to play the New Testament/Old testament card then you are welcome to give everything that you own. But God says in Malachi that there will be no needs, if everyone tithes.

Now... You have a right to do whatever you want to do with your money.

If you want to tithe, you have the right.

If you want to keep all your money, you have that right.

If you want to give your money to ONLY specific places that you choose, you have that right.

But hear me out on this.

If you choose where your all money goes all the time, then you are still in control. And in your heart you may be saying "I am supporting this cause and that cause" and in your heart you may have convinced yourself that you are doing exactly what God would have you to do but ultimately, if you choose all the times that you give and all the times that you don't give, then you are still only doing what makes you feel good. You are choosing to only give when it makes you feel good.

But ultimately you are still in control.

But the bible says you can be in control of the other 90%. You can give it graciously as you see fit, and you can keep what you need... but for the first 10% - "Bring it into the storehouse" and really, Jesus explains why that is, here... control.

You have to show God that you trust where he has you.

if you are a born again Christian and you believe that the bible is true and yet you have a hard time giving a tithe to your church then you need to ask yourself why?

You need to have the hard conversation with yourself. Did God call you to that church? Because if you believe that he did... why are you being faithful to that call, but yet not being faithful to that church?

The church is the bride of Christ, and is so incredibly important to God that he promises you that he will take care of you if you take care of it, and he even encourages you to put him to the test.

But its about more than just the church. It is about you.

Jesus says that you can't serve two masters... that is slave language.

Ultimately you are a slave to something. You either are a slave to God, or you are a slave to mammon.

and if you are a slave to mammon,

You are just like Babylon. A great city consumed.

I was thinking about Babylon, and that huge tower they began building... and I was reading this amazing essay by Tim Keller about cities, and he pointed out that in the old testament, you see that all of these cities are named after gods. And not only that but most of the cities were built around the tallest building, and that building was always the temple for the "god" that the city worshiped.

It is still like that in Salt Lake City today. If you were to go into that city, even the system they have for roads and addresses is a grid surrounding the Mormon temple. It is not the tallest, but it is the center.

And I thought about that, and about how much pride these people must have had to think that they could build a tower to heaven... they were literally building an altar for their pride...a temple around the idea that they can do it themselves... it was mammon.

But if you do a little digging into the history of most American cities, including New York City, and Detroit, what do you think the tallest buildings used to be?

The churches.

In New York, until 1889 the tallest building was “The Trinity Church” but was quickly surpassed by several buildings, each taller than the last including its neighbor, the Manhattan Life Insurance building. A building built around financial security.

In Detroit, until 1909, the tallest building was Fort Street Presbyterian Church, the last church to hold that title, which was then taken by the Ford building.

Today, what are the tallest buildings in most cities?

The financial institutions.

The buildings in which our economy runs on. The buildings in which our security rests in.

Because in our world, money has become our treasure. It has become our God. We are just like Rome. We are just like Babylon.

and listen... I don't believe that money itself is evil. Money is absolutely neutral. It can either be blessed, or cursed. It can have the spirit of God on it, or the Spirit of mammon.



But The lust for money is the root of all kinds of evil, and the lust for money is rooted in the spirit of mammon and it is one of the most crippling spirits imaginable...

and people who live by this spirit are always anxious about money. Even when they have enough, there is anxiety. Something in them is always stirring. Its always eating at them, and do you want to know why?

Because Babylon falls.

Revelation 18. Read it. In one days time the whole thing collapses. Just like people who store all of their possessions in clay houses... they can leave for an hour and come back to have found that a thief dug through and took it all away.

And it is what is going to happen. Listen very carefully to me right now.

The system can not sustain itself... and when it ultimately falls, everyone who lived their lives dependent on it will sell their soul to it.

Listen. I don't say things like this often. And I am NOT talking about God's judgment right now... I am talking about the patterns in your life that will show you your future.

See we tend to envision the last days to look something like this...

People seem to envision the antichrist coming in the form of a war monger who just nuked five countries, someone who murders millions of people like Hitler did, and we think "of course we will resist."

But the the spirit of the antichrist is going to look a lot more like the spirit of Mammon.

We envision someone holding a gun to our head saying that we need to get the mark of the beast or else they will kill us.

But this is what that gun is going to actually look like... Revelation 13:17 makes this so clear... its not going to look like AK-47... though we may see more of those as time goes on.

Its going to look like "Hey, you need to feed your family. We don't take cash anymore. We don't take credit anymore. We don't take gold and we don't take produce... We only take the mark... go back and get it, and then I will sell you bread for your family."

The bible makes it very clear, the antichrist will come on the shoulder of a new system for buying and selling. For trading. For doing business. and that mark that everyone for the last 2,000 years has spectated about, and worried about, will be peoples financial source.

and if your entire life *you* controlled everything, then the only way for you to remain in control will be to get it.

and if it is all you have ever known then it is all you will know to do.

Learning how to be dependent on God and training yourself to be generous, will prepare you for harder times and it will show God that you actually trust and believe with all of your heart that he truly does hold the world in his hands.

Lastly... the most important takeaway today -

In Luke 16:11, Jesus says something that really puts it all into perspective. He says this:

"If then you have not been faithful in unrighteous wealth (mammon), who will entrust to you true riches?"

and for most of my life I read this and I thought it was saying that if you aren't faithful with what little you have, then God will not ever make you a millionaire.

But guys, I know a LOT of people who have been faithful with money their whole lives, and God never gave them a million dollars. And if you read it

that way, you are always going to be disappointed because you will go through life thinking that God owes you something.

But what are true riches?

They aren't the things that burn.

They are the treasures to God.

Austin and I were talking this week about how amazing last week was. We had our biggest Thursday yet in kids club... over 150 people came out... over 100 kids and just a ton of salvations that day. We prayed with a whole bunch of kids, and we prayed with probably 15 or so parents.

and we were talking about how much we need volunteers if we are going to keep it going at such a high impact level... and I was asking him how we can motivate people to want to be a part of this?

and truthfully, he kind of put me in my place.

He said something along the lines of "all you have to do is get them there... its absolutely amazing..." and then he explained what he meant.

Last week, Austin worked almost 80 hours for Courage Church. He lead a team, they passed out flyers, they did a school assembly, they helped put together our kids club...

and sometimes those things *feel* like work.

But when the that work pays off in the form of people giving their hearts to Jesus, you forget there was even work involved. And who in the world wouldn't want to be a part of seeing that happen?

Each one of those kids... they are *real riches*. Each one of those parents.... they are God's treasures. and we got to play a part in making sure that their names make it into "The Book of Remembrance" that Malachi talks about.

They are treasures.

And what Jesus is saying in Luke 9 is so much bigger than a promise to make you rich.

He is saying... “if I can’t even trust you in something as small, and fleeting as money...”

“If I can’t trust you to bring the tithe to the storehouse... the one thing in the bible that God told us to TEST HIM on”

“If you can’t even give up control of something that ultimately in the end will mean nothing to you...”

Then why would I entrust you with real treasure?

Why would I give you people to lead, and to shepherd... and even to represent me to?

You are a thief.

Isn’t that what God says in Malachi?

You are a thief.

God is saying “I don’t trust my greatest treasure to people who can’t even honor me with their money.”

Guys, compared to most of the world I am so wealthy... but most of the time, it feels like I don't have all that much.

But I would give up everything I own in a heartbeat if it were the difference of someones eternity. I am not talking about 10% I am talking about 100%. When my wife and I moved to New York City we gave up the best paying job we had ever had, to go take one that didn't pay at all for the first nine months... in the most expensive city in America.

The LA Dream Center gave us a tent, and we camped with our one year old daughter Milly all the way across the nation to get there. Our time there

was the most crippling financial time of our lives but do you think for even a moment, I regretted one second of it?

No way.

Because it was filled with real treasure.

People you guys.

People.

I can think of no way I would rather live... no legacy I would rather leave... than the one that Paul describes when he describes the followers of Jesus in 2 Corinthians 6:10 -

“We are sorrowful... but we are always rejoicing.”

“We are poor... yet making many rich”

“We own nothing... but we possess everything!”

Because ultimately it doesn't matter what you accumulate. What matters is people.

Everything else is dying. Its rotting. Its rusting. For years I threw away my money renting tiny apartments in New York, and when I got to Detroit, I thought “if we could just own a house.”

So we bought a house.

and we started fixing it, room by room. And each time, I thought... If we could just open up one more room... until we opened up one more.

if we could just get the fridge...

if we could just get an air conditioner...

if we could just get the downstairs shower to work...

and each time a longing is fulfilled another one emerges... because it is just like Proverbs 27:20 says "the eyes of man are never satisfied."

This is an eye problem. and we are always looking for more while real the treasures are dying every day.

Our world is so broken.

Practically every day this week we woke up to more news that broke our hearts... more people who were hurt and killed... more fear that is rising up in communities... and I can tell you clear as day... we need to stand in solidarity with those who are hurting, and those who are mourning. We need to mourn with them.

But ultimately, church... we need to acknowledge that there is a problem that needs to get fixed in our world and it has to start with us.

and I will frame it a little different next week, but today I am framing it like this:

Our world has a treasure problem.

We don't see each other the way that Jesus sees us.

We just don't.

We are so concerned with what each and every decision that we make will cost us, that we forget what WE COST JESUS.

I am telling you, in the climate of our world right now, you are going to have to make some decisions that are going to cost you.

and I think that when it comes to your life, if your track record with money is is to keep it all... God is saying,

"thats really reflective of what we will see from your life."

decisions that protect yourself.

“of course you won’t make the right decision when it comes to people. You see the climate out there. You see what is going on...”

“Of course you won’t stand up for the marginalized and the broken... because you know what it will cost you...” People will see. People will question.

“Of course you won’t do whatever it takes to fight injustice because you know what it will cost you!”

“Of course you won’t live your life as a reflection of Jesus Christ because you know what it cost him!” He died alone. He was betrayed. He was denied.

If all you ever store up are treasures on this earth... then you obviously don’t do well with things that cost you.

and I believe God is saying “you have already shown me how much you value yourself, by the way that you kept what was mine.”

So I want to leave you with this one question:

How much of “you” does Jesus really have to work with?

It is all about control.

We are going to dive deep into the issue of control in other areas of our lives next week, and I think that it is going to be incredibly powerful for your life, but there is a reason that Jesus took us here first.

Jesus wants to do amazing things through you. He wants to use the church to change Detroit into what He has called it to be...

The church needs to bridge the gaps that are growing larger and larger in our society but Jesus can’t work through someone he can’t trust.

I can’t get those words out of my head...

“If you have not been faithful in unrighteous wealth (mammon), WITH STUPID MONEY... who will entrust to you true riches?”