

Three Prohibitions

Matthew 6:19-34

Matthew 7:1-6

Luke 6:37, 38

Three Prohibitions

Texts:

Matthew 6:19-34,

19. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

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

22. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.

23. 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!

24. 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.

25. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

26. Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

27. Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

28. And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

29. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

30. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31. So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

32. For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 7:1-6,

1. Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

2. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

4. How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

5. You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

6. Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

Luke 6:37, 38,

37. ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

38. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Treasures In Heaven

I. Christians are not to lay up for themselves treasures on earth because earthly riches are transient/insecure.

A. Moths eat certificates of deposit, bonds, stock certificates and paper money.

B. Rust consumes metallic coins.

C. Thieves break in and steal.

D. Proverbs 23:5, Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

II. The prime object of the Christian’s life is to accumulate spiritual treasures.

A. Luke 12:15, then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

B. Hoarding is not befitting for the Christian.

C. 1 Timothy 6:9, 10, People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

III. We all need sufficient funds with which to purchase our “daily bread” and should be prudent in financial matters.

A. What is condemned is laying up treasures while living in spiritual poverty toward God.

B. Luke 12:21, “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

IV. Christians are to lay up for themselves treasures in heaven which are durable/permanent.

A. Moths cannot eat spiritual riches.

B. Rust cannot consume spiritual riches.

C. Thieves cannot steal spiritual riches.

D. Matthew 10:42, And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

V. Where one’s treasure is, whether earthly or heavenly, his heart, interest and efforts are focused.

A. The big question is: Where is your heart?

B. We must possess our possessions. Our possessions must not possess us.

VI. Christians are to be single minded! We must be single minded, not double minded.

A. If the eye, the body's lamp, is single (focused) the body will be full of light.

B. If the eyes, the body's lamp, is darkness (blind) the body will be full of great darkness.

C. Men gave alms for conflicting reasons.

D. Men pray for conflicting reasons.

E. Men fast for conflicting reasons.

VII. Hypocritical divided vacillating service to God and the devil produces great, extreme darkness within the souls of men.

VIII. It is impossible for a person to serve two opposing masters at the same time; for example, God and the devil (mammon).

A. Service to two conflicting masters will result in one master's being served (loved and held) while the other is rejected (hated and despised).

B. We cannot live with one (1) foot in the devil's house and one foot in the Lord's house.

C. The heart can truly serve only **one** master.

IX. God will protect and provide for those who are dedicated to the Lord.

Regarding Worry, Anxiety

I. Christians are not to be anxious/worried about tomorrow regarding:

- A. our lives.
- B. what we shall eat.
- C. what we shall drink
- D. for clothes for our bodies.

II. Because –

- A. there is more to the body than clothes.
- B. there is more to the body than food and drink

III. God takes care of all his creatures, both great and small.

- A. Birds do not sow nor reap nor gather into barns, but God feeds them well.
- B. God will surely provide for his human creation since we are of more value than the birds.
- C. Therefore, we should not go around worried and anxious. Worry exacerbates problems and solves nothing.
- D. God who created mankind will also provide us with food, clothing and shelter.

IV. Anxiety does nothing to solve life's problems.

A. It does not add even one cubit to our heights nor one day to our lives.

B. It is not beneficial in providing raiment. Lilies do not anxiously rush around but are nonetheless more beautifully attired than Solomon in all his glory.

V. Jesus is here speaking of anxiety. He is certainly not speaking against the virtues of honest work, thriftiness, financial prudence and responsible estate planning.

A. 1 Timothy 5:8, If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

B. Principal emphasis is to be placed on the spiritual, not on the physical.

VI. Luke affirms that if God cares for the grass of the field that is very short lived he will certainly care for his earthly children.

A. Christians are to have complete trust in God making anxiety in regard to the mundane things of life worthless.

B. Benjamin Franklin, "God governs in the affairs of man; and if a sparrow cannot fall to ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?"

VII. The Gentiles (nations, pagans, heathens) seek after the earthly things of life with all their fret, anxiety and worry.

A. Christ's disciples center their attention on higher spiritual matters.

B. Christian disciples know that God cares for them, that God is in heaven and that all is well with his children on earth.

VIII. If we seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness, the basic needs of life the Lord will provide.

A. We are to seek God's righteousness, not our own righteousness.

B. Individuals and nations who serve God prosper. Look around and observe today's world.

IX. Do not worry about tomorrow, the future.

A. Take care of today and then you can take care of tomorrow.

B. "One day at a time" is all we need to be concerned about.

C. William Tyndale, "For the day present hath ever enough of its own trouble."

Regarding Judging

I. Jesus here declared that his disciples are not to go around carelessly judging people because we will reap what we sow; that is, with the same judgment we will be judged.

A. We are not to presume to stand in judgment on the eternal destiny of another person's soul.

1. Romans 2:1, You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. NIV

2. Romans 14:10, You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. NIV

3. James 4:11, Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. NIV

4. Hebrews 10:30, For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." NIV

B. John 12:48, There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

C. Acts 17:31, For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.

D. 2 Timothy 4:1, In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

E. John 12:47, As for the person who hears my word but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

F. 1 Corinthians 4:5, Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

G. Matthew 7:20, Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

II. A pre-occupation with “straightening out everybody” is not the work of Christians.

A. A critical condescending judgmental attitude produces bitterness, recrimination and vindictive hatred among people.

B. Love, acceptance, kindness and gentleness produce a return of these same characteristics.

Matthew 7:3, “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

I. Jesus points out the ridiculousness of our (people with so many faults) standing in critical judgment of our neighbors.

A. We who live in glass houses should not throw rocks at others.

B. We who have a huge beam sticking out of our eye should not try to pick a splinter out of our neighbor's eye while ignoring the beam in our own eye.

C. Jesus says that those who ignore their own grievous sins should not presume to straighten out the world by pointing out the relatively minor shortcomings of others.

D. A mote refers to that which is tiny, insignificant almost invisible.

E. A beam refers to that which is obvious, flagrant, obtrusive.

F. The “mote hunter” is the proverbial nitpicker!

Matthew 7:4, 5, How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

I. How hypocritical to think one can see clearly enough to attempt to remove a small splinter (painful as it may be) from another’s eye while doing nothing to remove a beam in one’s own eye!

II. Jesus condemns the hypocritical nature of big guilt condemning little guilt.

III. First, Jesus said, “get your own act together” and then you will be in a position to be of sincere service to your neighbor.

IV. We are to prepare ourselves to be of service to others by first getting ourselves right with God.

Matthew 7:6, “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet and then turn and tear you to pieces.

I. The priceless sacred things of God should be handled as unspeakably valuable items, not put in the paths of people who act like dogs and hogs

who have no respect for either the holy things of God nor the one who has offered them the spiritual pearls of great price.

II. There is no need to preach the gospel to wicked people who have no respect for the truth and no respect for the preacher, presenter.

Luke 6:37, 38, “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

I. Jesus taught:

A. Judge not and you will not be judged.

B. Condemn not and you will not be condemned.

C. Release (forgive, give up your attitudes of vengeance and retaliation) and you will be released (forgiven).

D. In other words, we reap what we sow, Jesus said.

E. Or, “with what measure (unit of grain) you give you will receive” except to a greater extent.

1. Acts 20:35, In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

2. Amos 8:5, saying, “When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we

may market wheat?” – skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales.

Three Prohibitions

Questions

1. What are the three prohibitions addressed in this study?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

2. The “ _____ ” is the proverbial _____ !

3. The prime object of the _____’s _____ is to _____.”

4. Christians are to be _____, not _____.

5. Christians are not to worry about _____,
_____,
_____,
_____.

6. _____ does nothing to _____
_____’s _____.

7. _____ are more beautifully attired than _____.

8. _____ said, “_____ governs in the _____ of _____; and if a _____ cannot fall to ground without his _____, it is probable that an _____ can _____ without his _____?”

9. Is it the duty of Christians to go around “straightening out everybody?” Why or why not? _____

10. Is it wrong to judge? _____
