



## Yeshua, Our Greatest Treasure (Matthew 6:19-24)

19 *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

22 *“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!*

24 *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. Matthew 6:19-24*

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Going through Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

1. This is the Constitution of the Kingdom and we would do well to consistently read, meditate, and pray through these three chapters.
2. There is power praying through these verses

#### B. Watering: Positioning Our Heart To Receive Grace: The Fasted Lifestyle (Mt. 6:1–23)

(5 grace-releasing activities); Our heart receives more grace as we *consistently* and *secretly*:

1. Serve: Doing good works (5:13-16); others will see (5:16) and glorify God
  - a. Fasting (giving of) our time
  - b. Helping the needy (widows, orphans, foreigners, leaders in the Kingdom)
  - c. Preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, delivering the oppressed
  - d. There is also a false “justice movement” arising in the earth; “works” without repentance and without Yeshua at the foundation
2. Give: Giving alms (offerings) (6:1-4; 19-21)
  - a. Fasting (investing) our resources
  - b. Giving offerings above our tithe to our local community
    - i. Missions: gospel going to the nations
    - ii. Benevolence: poor/needy
    - iii. Ministries that are building up the kingdom
3. Pray (6:5-13)
  - a. Fasting (giving of) our time
  - b. Misty Edwards: *“I take my cold, cold heart; I take my unrenewed mind; I take Your Word in my hand; And I give You time to come and melt me”*
  - c. For effective prayer:
    - i. knowledge of God: growing in a proper understanding of God
    - ii. time: scheduling the time and being consistent to keep the time to pray
    - iii. vocabulary: discovering words to say to Him
      - developing our own prayer list;
      - pray-reading the Bible
    - iv. listening: asking God questions and discovering how to hear His voice
4. Bless adversaries (6:14-15; 5:44)
  - a. Fasting (not defending) our reputation
  - b. Forgiving and doing good to our enemies
5. Fast (6:16-18)
  - a. Fasting (giving of) our physical strength through abstaining from food to seek God more wholeheartedly

b. Declaring that God is our strength and we pursue Him more than our necessary food

### C. Proper Attitude Towards These Grace-Releasing Activities

1. Positions Our Heart to Receive More: “grace-releasing activities” in our devotional life that position our heart to receive more strength in the grace of God
2. Not “Earning” Anything: Spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, meditation on the Word, etc) are ordained by God as a necessary way to posture our heart to freely receive more grace. These activities do not earn us God’s favor. The power is in the “bonfire of God’s presence” not in the cold flesh positioned in front of it.
3. Submitting to “Voluntary Weakness”: These five areas are expressions of “voluntary weakness” because we invest our natural strengths (time, money, energy, reputation, etc.) into Kingdom purposes. The normal use of our strengths is to increase our personal comfort, wealth and honor. In other words, by the fasted lifestyle we bring our natural strengths to God as we trust Him to “return” our strength back to us in a way that enriches our personal spheres of responsibility and transforms us with meekness (Bickle).
4. Calling Us to the Process of Developing Spiritual Maturity: God lives in our spirit but expresses His life in our soul progressively. God fully lives in us at the new birth, the measure that He expresses Himself in us is the measure of our maturity. A carnal believer has the life of God in their spirit but not expressed in their soul or heart.
5. God gives more to our heart but does not love us more when we live in spiritual disciplines.

### C. God is Our Rewarder: Not explicit but some rewards that are from God

1. We Come to Him Because He Rewards Us  
*Hebrews 11:6* <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
2. Key phrase: Your Father *who sees in secret will reward you*
3. His First, Greatest Reward: He is our very great reward; His presence

## II. KINGDOM TREASURE

A. **Yeshua Our Greatest Treasure:** Is He our greatest treasure? Are we growing in our love for Him?

B. **Sing!** The importance of a heart song and singing to our God

C. **Follow the Holy Spirit Nudges:** God will tailor make His plan for you as you ask Him to speak to you about what He specifically has for you to do or not to do.

## III. CONCLUSIONS

A. **A Theology of Suffering:** Many of the Believers in the Western World are soft (myself included) and do not have the biblical grid of embracing suffering as a part of what Yeshua has for His followers.

B. **A Great Falling Away:** The Scriptures are very clear about a coming falling away directly preceding the coming of Yeshua.

C. **...But God:** God is the only hope for our nation. He has moved in great power before to renew, rekindle, and revive His people. He will once more pour out His Spirit in the midst of great challenge and difficulty in our nation.

1. God will use the least intrusive means to touch the greatest amount of people at the deepest level.
2. I remember a sister describing the great difficulty and suffering in her life before she came to Christ. She stated, “I’m grateful that I had such difficulty because without it, I wouldn’t have turned to Yeshua.”

### D. Poised for Harvest, Braced for Backlash

1. God’s Outpoured Spirit upon our nation will upend religious systems and structures
2. God’s Kingdom coming in great power will come with great challenge and trouble

