Two Treasures, Two Eyes & Two Masters

1. Two treasures

- Do not gather for yourselves treasures on the earth, where moth and rust destroy them, and where thieves break in and steal;

- but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where no moth or rust will destroy them, and where thieves neither break in nor steal;

- for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1. Contrast of the two treasures
   1. Treasures on earth?
      1. Subject to moth & rust … eating them away > losing value and usefulness
      2. Risk of thieves stealing … > loss of enjoyment, usefulness
      3. A bad investment
   2. Treasures in heaven
      1. Of lasting value, even increased value > value ‘for yourselves’
      2. Secure, with lasting contentment
      3. A good investment
   3. Treasures in heaven bring 'spiritual wealth' =+ rewards
2. Your heart condition is revealed by money.
   1. Heart = your being ... meaning ... centre of your life
   2. Money follows what’s most important to you
   3. Show me your bank statement and I will show you what’s most important in your life.
   4. Illustration of Gollum in “Lord of the Rings” … his golden ring meant everything to him, prepared to go to any length to get it (back)

The Ring = precious!

1. How do I recognize a ‘treasure’? Quote by A.W. Tozer

“What do we value most?   
What would we most hate to lose? What do our thoughts turn to most frequently when we are free to think of what we will?   
And finally, what affords us the greatest pleasure?”

1. Quote from John Wesley  
   “I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.”

Can I also say this?

1. How can I invest in ‘treasures in heaven?  
   Paul to Timothy; ““As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 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.” (1 Timothy 6:17-19  
   1. Place no hope in what money can do for you, but only n what God can do for you- on His provision
   2. Grow in generosity and sharing

**2. Two eyes /focus**

- The lamp of the body is the eye; then if your eye is sincere, all your body will be enlightened; but if your eye is evil, all your body will be dark. If the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness itself!

1. Jesus gives us a command to focus on the light and not darkness.
2. Focusing on the light means to focus on His promises
   1. For example, the rich young ruler chose to focus on keeping his wealth and not on God’s promises
   2. “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed. “(Pr. 19:17
   3. Generosity is building treasures in heaven.
3. Focussing on darkness, makes us blind to the reality around us.
   1. This leads to a disregard of eternity, and a focus on a materialistic life
   2. “The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the glory of Christ …” (1 Cor. 15:32)
   3. Focusing on materialism
      1. "And He said unto them, Take heed and beware of covetousness. For though one has abundance, his life does not belong to his possession." Luke 12:15
      2. Leads to greed = idolatry
      3. Greed as "dead sea" vs Lake of Galilee
         1. In the Dead Sea, water comes in but doesn’t come out
         2. In the Sea of Galilee … In > out … leads to producing life
4. Aiming / focusing on God means
   1. Spending money as a steward of His money - in prayer, by faith
5. Focus on the line and not the dot
   1. The dot represents our life on earth – as a speck in eternity – ‘treasures on earth’
   2. The line represents eternity – ‘treasures in heaven’
   3. “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2 Cor. 4:17,18)

**3. Two masters**

- “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be attached to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

1. Jesus unmasked a power behind money He called ‘mammon.’
   1. Mammon means ‘my trust’ (a play on words in Aramaic (m’aman = my trust)
2. Mammon competes for our devotion, allegiance, love and service
3. The Choice
   1. There is no middle ground .. it is ‘either one or the other’ … you must choose who you will serve
   2. Love and devotion to mammon – leads to hate and despising God
   3. Love and devotion to God leads to hate and despising money
4. Serve God with your money?
   1. Manage your money according to what the Bible says
   2. Grow in generosity
   3. Seeking first the priority of the Kingdom
   4. Leads to ‘treasures in heaven’
5. Serving Mammon?
   1. Means putting money needs before God’s priorities
   2. Means putting money above people’s welfare
   3. Means getting and keeping above giving and sharing
   4. Means a life of materialism
      1. Worry, greed, impulsive buying, disorderly conduct, ingratitude
   5. mammon painting by Evelyn de Morgan 1900
      1. In the painting, the woman has decided to turn her back on God and serve Mammon – she clutches desperately at the knee of the statue, yearning up into his face, which stares down at her remorselessly. The statue holds out a bag of gold, but the woman ignores the money. She has moved from the love of gold to the love of Mammon himself and so has cut herself off from the love of God and has doomed herself.

1. Overcoming Mammon?
   1. Dethrone - money must not be an objective
      1. Choose to love God's and live in His victory,
      2. Acknowledge that all you have under your control belongs to God and agree to act as His manager
      3. Live out of God’s provision
   2. Desecrate
      1. Take away mammon’s god-like position by giving the Tithe – God’s part of all your income first – this acknowledges God’s ownership.
   3. Detach
      1. Take an objective view of managing money as a steward and not an owner.
2. Using mammon
   1. “And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth (mammon), so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. (Luke 16:13)
   2. Using money to bring people in contact with their eternity will yield eternal rewards!

**4. In the rest of Jesus’ teachings on money in Matthew 6** … Jesus concludes

1. Do not be anxious.
2. Your Father is your Provider and He will take care of you.
3. Seek first the Kingdom of God & his righteousness.
4. Then ‘all these things’ will be given to you.