

God's Story Your Story

February 1, 2015

Matthew 6:19-20

Faith 5 – A Pattern for shaping a life of faith



SHARE:

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading, [Jesus said,] *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.”* Matthew 6:19-20

TALK:

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How is the accumulation of more encouraged in your community? What media or messages could you stop listening to so that you could limit your exposure to those messages?
- Name three things you wish you had more of. Reflect on how the desire for more shapes your behaviors and attitudes.

PRAY:

God of plenty, show us the wealth of heaven that is ours because you are a generous God of abundant blessings. Stir our hearts to desire more of you and less of what we can obtain in this world, for the glory of your son, Jesus. Amen.

BLESS:

God who provides what we need, encourage our faith through the reading of your word. Help us listen, hear and understand. Amen.

Some Background

In any culture and in any time, the accumulation of more is a temptation. The religious leaders of Jesus' day professed to live rightly, praying publically eloquent prayers and acquiring praise and accolades for their "righteousness." Their desire for more was misplaced, as their desires could only be met with material goods or praise from others. Jesus didn't want empty words or rituals. Jesus wanted action. He wanted people to treat each other with kindness and generosity, and to speak with God honestly and authentically. Jesus encouraged people to seek treasure that would last far beyond the years on this earth. He showed that investing in God would pay far more dividends than investing in anything we can receive in this world.

Follow these stories of Jesus' miracles, teachings, and healings.

Sunday, Matthew 6:7-21 (and/or Matthew 6:25-34), *Treasure in Heaven*

Monday, Psalm 20:7, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 7:1-29, *Teachings of Jesus*

Wednesday, Matthew 8:1-17, *Healings of Jesus*

Thursday, Matthew 8:18-27, *Miracles of Jesus*

Friday, Matthew 8:28-9:8, *Healings of Jesus*

Saturday, Matthew 9:9-17, *Call of Matthew*