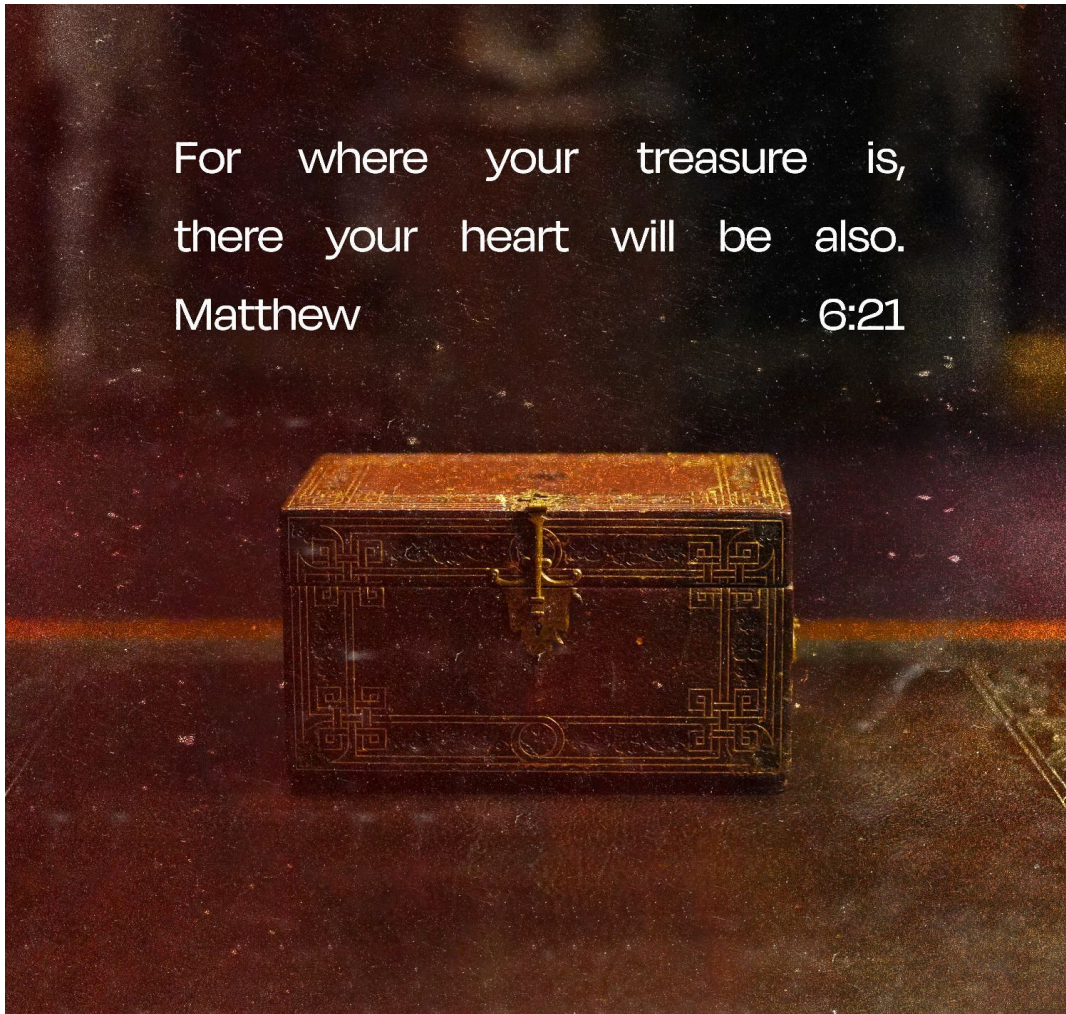


THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

29 June 2020

MAYFIELD GOSPEL HALL



What matters to you?

In Matthew 6:21 the Lord Jesus describes the things we love as our “treasure”. In the bible the “heart” represents our thoughts and emotions. He observes that our thoughts and emotions are centred on the things that matter to us.

This is true to life. A mother can make her family her “treasure”. Her affections can become so completely bound up in her family that she has little love for anything or anyone else. A

father can make his career his “treasure”. His thoughts can become so completely focussed on his career that he has little time for anything or anyone else.

It is a simple but penetrating observation.

Of course, it is also a generalisation. Oftentimes there is no single thing that claims our affections. As a result, we can get drawn in many directions.

The Lord Jesus’s saying in Matthew 6:21 however is dedicated to a deeper truth. He is not speaking about legitimate earthly interests. He is speaking about our spiritual interests.

I once had a book called “The Collected Writings of of JB Watson”. The author of the foreword described JB Watson as being like a compass. Although he was a devoted husband and father, and although he had a perennial curiosity about people and places, there was a gravitational pull on his life. Like a compass whose needle is inexorably drawn to magnetic north, wherever he went and whatever he was doing the “needle” of his life was inexorably drawn back to the Saviour.

What have these months revealed about us? The usual assembly gatherings have been suspended. Personal and domestic concerns have demanded our attention. Where has our heart been? Have we focussed on our own needs? Have we been so dedicated to the interests of our family that spiritual matters have been pushed to one side? Or has our heart, like a compass under the influence of earth’s electro-magnetic fields, been focussed on heavenly things?

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount the Lord contrasts “treasures upon earth” with “treasures in heaven”. “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2).

Thought for the Day – what really matters to us? It is often not hard to tell.

Alan Summers