



126 Mt. Pleasant Boulevard, Irwin, PA 15642 ▪ (412) 779-1357
www.hopeandpassion.org ▪ www.hope.passion.ministries@verizon.net

***Jesus and Indestructible Treasure* © 2009 Shelli Prindle**

- The Jesus speaking in Matthew 6 is the real Jesus: the second Person of the Godhead, the Creator of all reality, the Only Way, the Only Truth, the Only Life.
 - Though a great number in our culture may now believe that many religions or worldviews lead to God, Jesus is the only Way to God.
 - The natural law of gravity cannot be denied or violated. This natural law was made by our *supematural* God. Certainly then, the *supematural* law of Jesus being the only way to God cannot be denied, for the *supematural* is greater than the natural.

- Matthew 6:16
 - Jesus defines hypocrites as those who do things (or pretend to do things) out of wrong motivation. Any motivation other than the desire to glorify God is wrong.
 - Hypocrites make a point to obey (or pretend to obey) in order to be noticed by people.

- Matthew 6:17-18
 - True followers of Jesus ought to obey and serve because they genuinely love God and want to see Him and His plan lifted up.
 - God sees what is done in secret, i.e., what is done for the true purpose of God's glory, not to be noticed by people.
 - Jeremiah 17:10 and Hebrews 4:13
 - God gets down past what can be seen, past even the microscopic, to the unseen realm of the motivations and intentions of the heart.
 - Nothing done for His glory will go unrewarded, including prayers prayed, financial sacrifices made, the covering of insult with love, the sharing of kindness with strangers, etc.

- Matthew 6:19
 - We are not to actively pursue the treasures of this earth, for these treasures are temporary and subject to destruction.
 - Earthly things are temporary and corruptible because we are living in the middle of the story of redemption; we have not yet seen the last chapter.
 - Redemption became a need when Adam and Eve disastrously decided that their Creator did not have their best interests in mind and that He did not, in fact, define the parameters. Our human sinfulness requires a Savior.
 - We live in the exciting time of seeing God's Spirit call to people who need His redemption. We witness people forgiven and set free from sin.
 - At the close of history, the last chapter will begin. Jesus will re-make the heavens and earth, redeeming them and making them perfect.

- Jesus, the Reality Maker, gets scientific and irons out reasons to reject earthly treasure-building.
 - Tiny, one-half inch clothing moth larvae can eat away at what we treasure and sacrifice to obtain.
 - Unseen chemical reactions produce visible corrosion of iron, steel, and precious metals.
 - One man hurts another by stealing what belongs to us.
 - What an amazing point Jesus drives home: we spend endless amounts of energy, time and money to obtain what so easily is destroyed and taken away.

- Matthew 6:20
 - Even more real than the temporary treasure we can build on earth is the *indestructible* treasure we can build in Heaven *right now* as we walk this earth.
 - God created us to enjoy the wonderful things He has made; treasure is not wrong when it is motivated by a love from God and for God.
 - I Timothy 6:17
 - The treasure of Heaven cannot be eaten by insects, corroded by chemicals, or stolen by people.
 - The second law of thermodynamics will have been annihilated.
 - The sin curse will have been destroyed!
 - Peter corroborates Jesus' instruction in I Peter 1:4, as he describes our Heavenly inheritance as incorruptible, undefiled, and fading not away.
 - Incorruptible: not subject to decay or disintegration. Even our bodies will be free from corruption forever.
 - Undefiled: not able to be deformed, debased, or misused.
 - Fading not away: No one and no thing will die.

- Matthew 6:21
 - Your heart is undeniably wherever you spend time, energy, money, and love building treasure.
 - How do we spend the minutes of our days? When quietly all by ourselves, to what does our mind and heart drift?

- Matthew 6:24
 - No person can serve two masters. We will either serve God or "whatever/whomever else."
 - God stands alone as the only Creator and Lord. Any other person, thing, or system we serve is a perversion of the true Master.
 - I John 2:15-17
 - Lust is a cruel master. When we serve sin, we become enslaved to it.
 - We cannot be driven by what we see, crave in our bodies, or want for the sake of our own pride.
 - The man or woman who serves the world system will pass away.
 - Only the person who *does* the will of God (not professes or preaches the will of God) will live forever.

- Matthew 6:25
 - This verse is certainly not benign and only intended to give us some comfort.
 - Of course the true Christian does not need to worry about basic provision.
 - Jesus gets to the heart of the matter as we read in context and then notice the pivotal question, “Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”
 - John 6:26-27
 - When a great crowd of people crossed the sea to find Jesus, He did not welcome them with open arms no matter the motivation. He confronted them with the status of their hearts.
 - The crowd was not coming to Jesus because He is God and they needed to deal with Him. The crowd came to Jesus because He fulfilled a temporary desire.
 - Jesus instructs that this is not a valid reason to follow Him. The primary reason we ought to seek Him is because He is our Savior, and we need to be right with God!
 - John 6:48-50
 - When the crowd mentioned the physical bread God gave to Moses and the Israelites, Jesus bluntly tells them that those who ate the manna *died*.
 - All the miracles and provision in this life do not matter if the soul perishes.
 - Jesus is the Bread of Life. If we partake of Him, we will never die.
 - Bread helps us to realize that we must crave Jesus and partake of full relationship with Jesus.
 - Just as eating inexplicably builds us into the physical people we are, walking with Jesus miraculously makes us the new creation God desires.