

Laying up Treasures in Heaven (Mat. 6:19-21)

I. LIVING FOR ETERNAL REWARDS AND THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

A. Rewards *empower* the human heart. Jesus taught on eternal rewards, knowing their value and significance to believers (Mt. 5-7; Rev. 2-3). He used the subject of eternal rewards to align, motivate, and sustain the human heart in righteousness for the long-term.

¹⁹ Do not lay up... treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal;

²⁰ but... treasures in heaven... ²¹...where your treasure is, there your heart will be. (Mt. 6:19-21)

B. The message of the evaluation seat of Christ and eternal rewards will motivate us to live without regret. We need help in *resisting temptation*, *enduring persecution* or *overcoming boredom* associated with the mundane seasons of routine life. Eternal rewards are designed to strengthen our resolve to overcome (Mt. 6:19-21; Lk. 12:33-34). This present age is a dress rehearsal or “internship” for what is to come (1 John 2:17; Rev. 22:12).

¹² Behold, I am coming quickly, and My [Jesus'] reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. (Rev. 22:12)

C. The greatest appointment of our lives is ahead of us. It is appointed for all to die once and be evaluated (Heb. 9:27). At that time what Jesus says to us when we stand before Him is the only thing that matters. He sees and knows all. We cannot manipulate Him with our own opinion; nor will others’ opinions of us matter at that time.

¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Heb. 4:13; cf. Rev. 1:14; 2:18; 19:12)

D. He will evaluate us on *how we responded to our personal assignments* in light of our life circumstances (Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:9-11; Eph. 2:10; Phil. 3:12-14; 2 Tim. 4:7; Dan. 7:10; Rev. 20:12).

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment [evaluation] seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)

E. He will look at our lives and ask us *how we invested what the Father entrusted to us* – capacities, abilities and resources (Mt. 25:14-30). Based on our stewardship, He gives us rewards that will never diminish!

²³ His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things...” (Matt. 25:23)

1. Capacities - emotional, psychological, spiritual, physical, etc.
2. Abilities – natural abilities, spiritual gifting, anointing in ministry, etc. Resources - time, money, energy, words, influence, authority, etc.

F. Every moment of our lives becomes significant as we remember that Jesus sees every act, whether large or small, hidden or seen, how we devoted our lives to Him, used our time, influence for Him, etc... (Mat. 6:4, 6, 18; Mk. 10:42; 9:41; Heb. 6:10; 1 Cor. 3:14-15)

⁴² Whoever gives... only a cup of cold water... shall by no means lose his reward. (Mk. 10:42)

G. Only the things we built by love in our lives will remain after it passes through the fire of God’s love. Some believers will enter the kingdom with just their lives. (1 Cor. 3:10-15; 13:8, 13; 1 John 4:8, 12; Heb. 12:29)

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SESSION 8 - LAYING UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN (MAT. 6:19-21)

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¹⁴ ... *If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.* ¹⁵ *If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved...* (1 Cor. 3:14-15)

H. Our works can't be accurately evaluated until the fullness of time at Jesus' return (Rev. 11:18).

⁵ *Judge nothing before the time, when the Lord comes, who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.* (1 Cor. 4:5)

II. ETERNAL REWARDS - SEVEN TYPES

A. Capacity for God - He is our great reward (Gen. 15:1; Song 2:16; 6:3; Rev. 21:3, 7; 22:4). Our capacity to comprehend and experience God in the age-to-come is multiplied, according to our love and faithfulness to Him now. "To him who has, more will be given" (Mt. 13:12; 25:29; Mk. 4:24-25; Lk. 8:18).

¹ *The LORD came to Abram, saying... "I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."* (Gen. 15:1)

B. Resurrected Glory - Our physical resurrected frames will be uniquely glorified (Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43) and our senses will be perfected (1 Cor. 15:42-49, 54). The intimacy we cultivated in the "secret place" will be openly manifest to all (Mk. 4:21-25; Lk. 8:16-18).

⁴³ *The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom...(Mt. 13:43)*

C. Beautiful Garments - All of the saints will receive various garments that are as diverse as our past life choices, current position of authority and the different occasions that we will participate in (Rev. 3:5, 18; 19:8, 14).

⁷ *The marriage of the Lamb has come...⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.* (Rev. 19:7-8)

D. Kingdom Government - All of the saints will share in various degrees of administering God's kingdom government upon the earth forever (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 22:5)! There are many layers and spheres of authority within the governmental structure of the Kingdom (Hag. 2:23; Lk. 19:17-18; Rev. 2:26-27).

⁴ *I saw thrones, and they [the saints] sat on them, and judgment [decision-making] was committed to them... and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.* (Rev. 20:4)

E. Eternal Gifts - Jesus invites all believers to earn gifts for the age-to-come, as reward for overcoming in this age (Mt. 6:19-21). In Revelation 2-3 He gives twenty-six eternal rewards that aid us in intimacy with Him and encourage us to persevere as we keep the coming age before us (Mt. 5-7; Isa. 40:10; 62:11; Rev. 11:18; 22:12).

²⁶ *He who overcomes and keeps My works until the end...²⁸ I will give him...* (Rev. 2:26-28)

F. New Jerusalem - We look for a City, prepared for us, which has foundations whose Builder and Maker is God (Jn. 14:2-3; Heb. 11:10, 16; Rev. 21:9-22:5). All resurrected believers will live in the New Jerusalem, while having various work assignments upon the earth.

² *In My Father's house [New Jerusalem] are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you.* (Jn. 14:2)

G. New Heavens and New Earth - Even as God prepared the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve, He will renovate the heavens and the earth as a perfect environment to dwell in unhindered face-to-face communion with His people in paradise forever (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Acts 3:21; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1, 5-7).

⁷ *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.* (Rev. 21:7)