

WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 29 June 2008

The Good Life – who do you bank with?

Matthew 6 v.19 – 24

1. To get you thinking:

Jim Graham (a popular Spring Harvest speaker) once said:

'You can tell what matters most to a person by looking at how they spend their time and money'.

How do you respond to this quote? Do you agree?

Read Matthew 6:19-24

This passage deals with one issue in three different ways by looking at treasure, eyes and masters.

TREASURE

2. Looking at v.19-21, is Jesus saying wealth is wrong?
3. What is the thrust of what Jesus is saying here?
4. Are "treasures in heaven" about our future destiny or is there a 'now' dimension?
5. What are "treasures in heaven" and how do we store them up?

EYES

This is a slightly tricky piece of teaching, prompting the question: how is the eye the lamp of the body?

Tom Wright (The Bishop of Durham) is helpful with this. He says of v.22:

"(Jesus) means that we must... keep our eyes fixed on God (and)... take care what we actually look at. Where do your eyes naturally get drawn to? Are you in control of them or do they take you – and your mind and heart – wherever they want?"

In other words, do our eyes let God's light into our beings or something else?

6. How do you respond to the Tom Wright quote?
7. How might our heart and eyes be linked?

MASTERS

8. Verse 24 is one of many of Jesus' sayings that have passed into common usage. Try to put into your own words why Jesus' teaching is true.
9. How does the truth of v.24 work itself out in 21st century Britain?
10. At the start of these questions I said this passage deals with one issue in three different ways.
 - (i) What is the one issue?
 - (ii) How does this challenge our discipleship?