Dear Open Door Family,

Once every 4 years an international even comes around of staggering proportions. It is called the World Cup. It is the World Championship of Soccer in English and Futbol in Spanish. This is an event which literally stops many other places in the world dead their tracks. When we were in Bolivia it was not uncommon for companies to promise employees time off to watch all the games. That mean the worked earlier or later but they shut everything down so that people could watch the world cup. In places like Brazil it is literally an obsession - the nation mourns any loss. I have had friends who have saved for four years so that they could travel to and attend a game during the World Cup. Why? Why do they do that? Because watching the highest level of Soccer in person is something they value greatly. These verses remind us that our hearts will follow what we treasure.

Matthew 6:21 *(NIV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21 *(MSG) The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be...*

Matthew 6:24 *(NIV) "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

Matthew 6:24 *(JBP) No one can be loyal to two masters. He is bound to hate one and love the other, or support one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and the power of money at the same time.*

Where is my Treasure? Is Jesus my treasure? Is serving and honoring Him my highest priority? Or is pursuing my own interests and ambitions my number one goal? What is it that I value? Do I place the highest value on knowing, loving and serving God - or something other than that? If I value earthly ease and wealth than I will do whatever it takes to receive or achieve that. I love the vivid contrast presented in these verses. How can I put God and Money - Jesus and stuff on an equal level for comparison? One way of finding out what we truly value is to look at how use the time, resources, and abilities which God has given to us.

Life App. Com. *Jesus contrasted heavenly values with earthly values when he explained that our first loyalty should be to those things that do not fade, cannot be stolen or used up, and never wear out. We should not be fascinated with our possessions, lest they possess us. Jesus calls for us to live contentedly with whatever we have because we have chosen what is eternal and lasting.*

PRAYER: Lord, help me to make YOU MY TREASURE. I do not want to serve any other master I want you to be wholeheartedly committed to YOU in every way.

Pastor Mark Kieft

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