

Wednesday in the Word
Second Baptist Church
June 10, 2026

What are you chasing? What are you pursuing?
Matthew 6:19-33 & Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Introduction:

Most folks do not wake up and say, "Today I'm going to chase the wrong things." Nobody starts the day with a cup of coffee in one hand and a journal in the other thinking, "I would really like to spend my life on things that won't last." Who wakes up and say, "I wonder how much money I can waste today?" We don't plan to be distracted. We don't schedule anxiety and worries. We don't usually make a conscious decision to give our best energy to temporary things while giving God whatever is left at the end. And yet, if we are honest, life has a way of pulling us along. Life has a way of distracting us from what's important. Life has a way of prioritizing our life in material ways and not spiritual ways. If we are not careful, life would have us just storing up temporary stuff in a temporary time in a temporary place. For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Timothy 5:6 & 7.

The Good News is that God has provided us in His Word all the directions, guidance, and instructions that we need to store up heavenly treasure that will bear all we need in this life and the life to come.

2 Timothy 3:16 & 17, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2. What you pursue reveals your treasure

In Matthew 5th chapter, Jesus is preaching what we often call the Sermon on the Mount. When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He is teaching ordinary people how to live under the reign of God.

He has been baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist to fulfill all righteousness.

Matthew 3:15

He has been tested and tried in the wilderness 40 days and 40 nights much to the defeat of Satan by the use of the Word – because it is written....

He has called his disciples. His ministry has begun. He was healing every disease and sickness among the people along proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom. As his reputation spread all over Syria, people were coming from all over, gathering that Jesus might heal them from whatever they were suffering from.

Here in the text a continuation of Jesus' teaching. If we discover that we have been chasing something temporary, the invitation of Jesus is not despair but hopeful and refocusing. It is a gracious recentering of life around treasure that will last.

Because the false spirituality of men seeks to lay up treasures for themselves in a worldly sense, they have their reward. What is outwardly shown or just publicly display does not mean it is inward spiritually accepted by God. God is not about outward attention of men. Treasures upon earth are temporary and of short duration. There is nothing that is manmade that last forever. Lifetime does not guarantee life duration. Earthly things including people have an earthly expiration. The only lifelong guarantee that we have is what is laid up – store up in heaven where thieves, moth, and rust cannot get through. Our materialistic technological society in these 20th century all too often overlook this truth.

Our attention to wealth, possession, social status, and retirement benefits can too easily cause us to trust that which man provide rather than that which God has ALREADY PROVIDED.

3. Our Treasures Shapes our Heart

The term "treasure" implies the accumulation or addition of things. There are two kinds of treasures – either upon earth or in heaven). The concept of laying up treasure in heaven is rewards for faithful service as Jesus illustrated in his teaching. The destiny of our lives is either earthly or heavenly and the concentration of our efforts will reveal where our real treasure is.

In contrast to the legalistic attempt of Judaism to establish a spiritual treasure upon earth, Jesus calls attention of His disciples to that true and eternal treasure which is heavenly.

The only way we can overcome our inclination toward materialism and wealth is to place the priority of our possession in heaven.

Where our treasure is, there will our heart be also.

We cannot serve two masters. (Matt 6:24) Total loyalty to God cannot be divided between Him and loyalty to our material possessions. A master is an owner or a lord. God claims lordship over His own.

It either all or nothing. Jesus gives the believer no option between loving God and loving the world. The regenerated heart is one which so longs for righteousness and desires the things of heaven that it lives above the temporal things of the earth.

4, Don't Worry

Jesus continues speaking about the things people worry about most food, drink, clothing, and tomorrow. These are real concerns. Jesus doesn't mock them. He doesn't pretend people doesn't have needs. He doesn't say, "Just ignore your responsibilities." Jesus speaks to anxious people as a compassionate King. Don't worry. Don't let your pressure rise. Don't burn yourself out. God knows and care and will provide.

Adding doubt to the danger of possessions, Jesus now deals with the equally dangerous tendency of those who have no possessions – worry. Take no thought means do not be anxious. Do not worry about material needs to the point that you distrust God and are distracted from doing His will.

God do not want us to worry about what we should eat, drink, or wear. The question, "Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment/" This indicates that inner mental stability must come from the spirit of man and not from outward physical provisions. Don't live in insecurity and deny yourself of the spiritual blessings of God. Jesus illustrated His point by referring to objects in nature which were immediately at hand; the birds of the air and the flowers of the field. Birds which fly through the skies appeared not to work, and God feed them. God feeds them through the normal process of nature. Consider the lilies of the field, they appear to do nothing for themselves and yet God, through the process of nature which He controls, clothe the grass of the field.

Even Solomon, the great and wealthy king of Israel, was not arrayed in any greater beauty than the flowers of the field which God has made.

Questions asked, "Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes?"

Modern medicine would tell us worry can shortens one life.

The state of worry is related to having little faith. Faith is total confidence in the provision of God. Faith in salvation is a total trusting of the complete work of Christ on the cross on our behalf.

5. The God of Kingdom Must Become First

What are you chasing? Jesus has brought us beneath the surface of our schedules and desires. He has shown us that our pursuit reveals our treasure. He has shown us that treasure shapes our heart. He has warned us that earthly treasures are vulnerable, unable to carry the weight we often place on them. Then He invites us into a better way, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

What are you chasing? If your calendar could speak, what would it say is first?

If your bank account could testify, what would it say you treasure?

If your thought life were visible, what would it reveal about your hope?

If your anxiety had a voice, would it say you are afraid to lose?

And as those answers come, don't hide from God. Bring them to Him. Confess what needs to be confessed. Release what needs to be released. Reorder what needs to be reordered

The kingdom cannot remain an afterthought in the life of someone who has seen the worth of the King.

6. What to Pursue?

Ps 34:14, "Seek peace and pursue it."

1 Thess 5:15, "but always pursue what is good for each other and for everyone else."

1 Tim 6:11, "Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."

Heb 12:14, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."