

Financially Healthy Spirituality
Spirituality and Simplicity
Panel Discussion with Franciscan Friars
Matthew 6

Matthew 6 (NIV)

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,^[c] your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy,^[d] your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 6 (The Message)

¹⁹⁻²¹“Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

²²⁻²³“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

²⁴“You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both.

Small Group Questions

1. What thoughts, feelings, or questions do you have after reading this passage?
2. We were joined by two Franciscan Friars for our panel discussion. Prior to this, what has your understanding been of those who have chosen to be monks?
3. How open or reluctant have you been to learning from other Christian traditions like (Roman Catholicism or Eastern Orthodox church)? Why do you think this is?

Financially Healthy Spirituality
Spirituality and Simplicity
Panel Discussion with Franciscan Friars
Matthew 6

4. When you think of the word simplicity, do you think of the Christian life? Why or why not?
5. How would you feel if you had to cut your lifestyle in half?
6. The monks live off of the generous providence of God. Do you find it hard to rely on God to provide your needs?
7. Do you find it difficult not to compare your life and possessions with others? Why or why not? How has this impacted your spiritual life and decisions?
8. The monks connected poverty with serving the poor. Have you had an experience in which you served a person(s) who was economically poor? How did that impact you?
9. What is one thing you can begin to do to live a more simple life?
10. One of the marks of a Franciscan is detachment from the world. Why do you think this is such an important aspect of the spiritual life? What is the next step you're going to take in light of this message?
11. Gather in groups of 2-3, share prayer requests, and pray for one another.