

Luke 20:20-26

God, you are the creator and maker of all things. By you all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things were created through you and for you. You created the vastness of the universe, stars, galaxies, planets beyond count, a creation beyond our comprehension. All yours to possess and reign over.

You created us in your image, built for relationship with you. We are filled with a natural desire to seek out fulfillment with our creator. Yet we often seek this comfort in worldly things. We try and replace you with the temporary comforts and riches of this world. We make idols that control our lives and rule over our hearts. We sacrifice a relationship with the eternal God for temporary treasure that can be destroyed and stolen.

When the Israelites were wondering in the wilderness you provided mana to sustain them. And yet when they did not trust in your provision and gathered more than they needed, it would rot. We can be just like the Israelites, gathering more than we need because we don't trust you. We put our trust and comfort in material things and miss out of what is important, a relationship with you.

Money specifically Lord, is a stumbling block for so many. You warn us that money is the root of all kinds of evil. That it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to make it into heaven. You tell us to keep our life free from the love of money and be content with what we have. Warnings about money, greed, and trusting Christ for our provision are laced throughout your word.

God, we pray for hearts that are in right relationship with you. We pray that we will prioritize storing treasure in heaven over material things and that our love for you would overpower all else so that we would use our possessions to honor you and love people. Not because you need our money Lord, but because you want our hearts.

King Jesus, you established your church here on Earth and through your Holy Spirit it has spread. People all over the world know you and worship you. We pray for your people Lord. For the missionaries who bravely proclaim your word to the lost. We pray for the worshipers who are persecuted because they have chosen you. We pray for your protection and for the growth of your church around the world.

We pray that our humble church here in Blackfoot would honor you with our word and our deeds. We pray that this church will be a light to those who are lost in this area. Not because we have the best programs or the most eloquent speakers, but because your word is preached here and your spirit changes the lives of those who hear it. Lord we pray that those around us will see the fruits of our love for you and that they will desire a relationship with you because of it.

In all the things that we do here today Lord, we pray that we will honor you with it. We pray for your Spirit to move our hearts and for your kingdom to be known, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.

At this time, we'd like to invite our children's ministry leaders to the front and if you have children ages 5-11 they may now come up to the front and follow our children's ministry volunteers out this side door for an age specific bible lesson. We also have the nursery available for children 4 and younger and if your little one gets a little restless during the sermon, the sermon is live streamed to that room so

you'll be able to follow along with the sermon. Children are always welcome to stay during the sermon if parents would prefer.

Benediction

Mark 8:36 For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world and yet lose his life? God we pray for heart and minds in the right relationship with you. May we be a people who give up the world in exchange for a saving and eternal relationship with you. Amen.