

# The Question of Identity: Beyond Moths, Rust and Thieves

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## Big Idea Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Matt 6:19-24



## Big Idea

We are not what we do. We are not what people say about us. We are not what we possess. Our identity is simply this: We are the beloved children of a Loving and Sovereign good God.

### Treasures (vv 19-21)

What we treasure is actually part of the fundamental structure of who we are. If all treasures are limited to what is in this material world and existence, that would be a sad experience, for nothing is truly ours, and it is under the constant threat of "moths, rust and thieves." On the other hand, there is a type of treasure that is beyond any risk or threat, and that treasure is God. Christ died on the cross, for you and me, so that the treasure of all treasures, God, can become our father.

### Perspectives (vv 22-23)

Almost everything you do with your body depends on your ability to see. It is through the light of the eyes that our body finds its way. Without a healthy eye, the body loses focus and a sense of direction. Very often in scripture eyes and heart are equivalent hence the one with healthy eyes, sees God as his ultimate treasure, is relieved of false identities, sees himself/herself as a beloved child of God. While the one with an unhealthy eye is stuck in the darkness of fear, ever running on a treadmill going nowhere, frantically seeking to protect its treasures from moths, rust and thieves.

### No Middle Ground (vv 24)

We cannot help but to serve what we treasure, and so who we will serve goes back to what is our ultimate treasure. There are no middle grounds when it comes to serving God. There is this mistaken belief in Christian circles that obedience to God is optional, and being a disciple of Christ is reserved for pastors and those who want to go further in him. There is no salvation without being an apprentice of Christ. Christ cannot be Savior of our lives and not Lord/Master.

### Who am I?

Very often we define ourselves by what people say about us, our possessions or what we do. This is a tiring way to live. It is a way of life dependent on performance that has to be kept up continuously. It paints the image of hamsters sprinting on a wheel going nowhere. What lies beneath our false narratives of identity is fear, and beneath that fear is unbelief in God - basically not making God our treasure.

The Love of God, which is supremely shown at the cross, is the answer to the fear beneath our anxieties. Jesus went to the cross for you, to die for you, to make you his own. You are a beloved child of the Most High!



## Homework

- How do you feel about the invitation to be a part of life in the Kingdom of God? What does this stir in you?
- What are your treasures? What do you long for? Do you feel differently about them in light of Matt 6:19-24?
- How do you normally define yourself? By what you possess, what you do or what people say about you? Does one ring clearer than the other?
- Meditate on a passage of scripture (Rom 8:31-39, John 15:5-16, Matt 6:25-34) daily for about 2-4 weeks. Note down your thoughts in a journal as it pertains to how you define yourself.
- Turn your internal monologue into a dialogue - invite God into the day-to-day activities of your life.