

引言 INTRODUCTION

Jesus teaches us about value in this passage. There are some major differences between cost and value. Cost is how much you pay to buy things. Value measures how much you cherish the items you own. There are a lot of rich people in the world who buy things they want to keep and not to use. They do not get those stuff from Wal-Mart. They compete for them in auctions. I did a little research on some interesting items once sold in auction. Singing artist Justin Timberlake left some uneaten French toasts at a radio show interview. The DJ later put the bread on eBay. A teenage girl bought them for \$1,025. I hope she could resell the item for a higher price before it went bad! The most expensive artifact obtained from the Titanic was a violin owned by Wallace Hartley. He was a member of the string musicians who entertained the passengers before the ship sank. The instrument damaged by water was auctioned off at \$1.7 million in ten minutes. What a huge cost to pay to remember a tragedy! Closer to our home are the belongings once owned by Elvis Presley. A chunk of his hair was sold for \$115,000. Elvis' barber had been saving the hair for 25 years after the artist's death. I thought only my hair is precious! I wonder how the buyer will display the item in his/her home. Whether those purchases are wise investments are up for debate. It boils down to a simple rule of Economics 101: there will be a supply if there is a demand. In our passage today, Jesus compares between good and bad value in God's eyes. He tells us to have a heavenly perspective when we live as Kingdom citizens.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 你的儲存位置? Where do You Store?

First, Jesus tells His audience where they should store their treasures. The contrast is obvious. He asks them not to store treasures on the earth but store them in heaven. Storing treasures on earth comes with three risks. First, they may rot. Moths will eat them. Cloth moths are insects that feed on fabrics. Once the larvae are hatched, they will start chewing things up. In the Biblical time, clothing was a valuable item for wealthy people to accumulate. The only clothes poorer people had could be those they put on every day. Back then there was no moth ball or pesticide to control bugs. Clothing destroyed by moths will lose its value. The second potential risk to an earthly storage is rust. In the ancient world, precious metals contained impurities. They would rust easily. The word "rust" here can also mean being eaten. Therefore, while metals are subject to corrosion, food can be consumed by rats or destroyed by mold. All those factors will reduce the value of treasures. Jesus says even when properties do not rot or rust, they may be robbed by thieves. In those days houses were made with mud walls. Bad guys could easily dig a hole and break in. Today, we worry about the crime rate in our city. We stay on guard when we go out during the day and when we sleep at night. Modern day thieves can rob people with a weapon or even a computer. They hack into people's account and steal personal information. They also send out fake messages to our phones and email accounts to try to cheat our money. Due to the above reasons, it is unwise to store our treasures on earth. Jesus is not saying that earthly treasures are bad. He tells us that there is a better place to save our treasures. Money is God's blessing. Many people in the Bible were blessed with great wealth. For example, Abraham, David and Solomon,

to name but a few. But many other believers are the poorest people in the society. Therefore, if God makes you rich, thank Him. But if God does not give you a big bank account, you need to thank Him too. Money is not evil, but the love of money is. Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:10 – **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.** Money can be a huge temptation. The world fools us into believing that money can buy everything. Money can be exchanged for power, material possessions and pleasure. But money cannot buy lost health, relationship and opportunities. The fact is that, we cannot take our savings with us when we leave this world. Once a seminary student was invited to preach at a church. He had to buy a suit. Since he was on a tight budget, he went to a pawn shop. He was humbled by the price-tags. So he asked the clerk if he had anything cheaper. He replied: “Sure. But I got those suits from a funeral home.” The young man had no other choice. On the preaching day, he got nervous when standing on the podium. He naturally put one hand into the suit pocket. He then realized that there was no pocket! He got an insight: there is no need for dead people to have pockets, since they could not bring anything along. Because of that, Jesus says it is wiser to store treasures in heaven. It is a secure place where things will not deteriorate or depreciate. We can do a simple **Time Test** to check if we are following the Lord’s advice. Will any of your treasures last forever? Only things of God are long-lasting. For example, godly characters like love, joy, peace and kindness, etc. Our relationship with God is also enduring. That is why it is called eternal life. Our fellowship with God’s people will also be carried over when we go to heaven. How can we store up treasures in heaven? We just need to keep cultivating the qualities above when we are still in this world. For instance, we treat people with God’s love. We spend time doing God’s work, in and outside of the church. We offer money to Christian ministries so that people can use it to expand God’s Kingdom. We share the gospel with others and invite them to church and help them receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord. We are storing treasures in heaven when we invest resources of this world for eternal profits.

2. 你的光源所在? What is Your Source?

After asking his listeners to check where they store their treasures, Jesus then asks them where their light source is. Verses 22-23 need some work to understand the meaning: **22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”** We can see things because there are some specialized cells in our eyes that covert light energy into electrical signal. After our brain receives the signals, it tells us the shapes and colors of things we see. Subsequently, we make corresponding decisions. For example, drivers will step on the accelerator when they see a green light, and they hit the brakes when it turns red. Humans are better than animals because we make moral judgment based on what we see. Therefore, when Jesus mentions vision, He is talking about our perspective on things. God is our ultimate source of light. If our eyes are illuminated by that light, our whole body will be bright. We will obey what God says and we will choose to do the things God’s see as worthy. Some people stop and help those who are in need. Others just walk past and pretend that they see nothing. Most Christians read the Bible. However, not every believer is changed by its content. Whether or not we follow God’s true light will lead to contrasting outcomes. The apostle John says in 1 John 1:6-7 – **6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have**

fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. God has made us into children of light when we received Jesus into our hearts. He will help us live in righteousness when we walk in His light. John says we will be lying if we say we have a relationship with God but yet we still walk in darkness. Sin is always done in darkness because exposure of it will bring shame and guilt. Have you ever turned over a rock and observed the reaction of the critters underneath? They will run for their lives because they think you will eat them up! They feel safe by living in darkness. But Christians should not be like that. God sees everything. He knows our hearts completely. No intent is hidden from Him. God desires for us to bear a clear conscience. If we live under God light, then we will make wise decisions that please Him. We consult an eye doctor when we cannot see clearly. The two most common vision problems are near-sightedness and far-sightedness. An optician will prescribe suitable glasses for you after an eye-examination to correct your vision. My two boys both have a near-sighted issue. They wear special contact lens before bedtime, hence the name “dream lens.” Those small pieces of plastic compress the cornea and thus refocus their vision. They get back to a 20-20 vision without wearing glasses. Similarly, we need God’s help to run a **Vision Test** when our spiritual eye-sight gets blurry. Do we see what God sees as valuable? People who do not know Jesus have permanent eye problem. Jesus once convicted some religious leaders because they had spiritual blindness. They rejected Jesus even though they knew that He was God. God has to perform a spiritual eye surgery on people like that to restore their vision. Even after we are saved, sometimes we suffer from spiritual near-sightedness because we only focus too much on the things of this world. We only care our own business but we show no concern about God’s Kingdom. We need to see things through the lens of the Scripture. Moreover, Satan’s schemes will hurt our relationship with God just like UV light will damage our vision. We need God’s Word to protect us from harm like a pair of spiritual sunglasses. When our vision is clear, then we can see this world with an eternal perspective.

3. 你的服事對象? Who do You Serve?

Jesus asks His audience where they store their treasures and what their light source is. Then there is a third question: who do they serve? Look at verse 24: **“No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.”** Jesus says we can either serve God or serve money, but not both. By serving, He refers to loyalty. At that time, most people were day-laborers or slaves. Daily employees served various masters depending on who hired them. But slaves were properties of their owners. They served their masters until they or someone came up with a ransom in exchange for their freedom. Regardless, both type of servants should obey their bosses. We live in a very different world today. Sometimes, people complain that they work like slaves. The fact is that they can quit if they do not like their jobs. However, any company wants their employees to be faithful. My wife has a relative who works for a U.S. car company. He says if any worker drives a foreign-made vehicle to work, very soon people will sign their names on the car with their keys! That is the same sentiment of love versus hate Jesus talks about. He warns us not to love money so much that we make it our master. Anyone in a dating relationship knows how love feels like. You will think about the person day and night. You crave for more opportunities to be with your lover. You hope to see the person when you are in a public place. It will be cutting your heart if he/she suffers any minor mishap. Substitute that person with money, and you will understand how people love money. They think about money even in their dreams.

They find happiness when they see their savings grow or their stocks rise. They always look for additional ways to make more money. An unexpected bill feels like a wild dog biting them. Jesus tells us that we can only love one master. Two stories in the gospels illustrate that. Once a rich young ruler asked Jesus how to inherit eternal life. The man said he loved God and he followed the Law. Jesus responded: "Great! Two more things you need to do. First, sell all you have and give the money to the poor. Second, come follow me." Remember how the wealthy guy felt? Mark 10:22 says: **Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.** He loved his money more than God. Therefore, he was unwilling to give away his fortune. The other man Matthew. He was the author of the gospel named after him. Remember his original profession? He was a tax-collector. It was a very profitable job to have. Jesus passed by Matthew's tax booth one day and said two words to him: "Follow me." How did Matthew react? Luke 5:28 records: **And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.** Matthew's everything include his money, his work and his social status. No more fine clothes, wild party and acceptance from his peers. He became a follower of Jesus. He did not know where the next stop would be, where to stay overnight and how to make a living. Who or what the two men chose to serve made a huge difference. The rich young guy made money his master. In comparison, Matthew served Jesus as his master. Today, Jesus does not ask us to give away everything before we can follow Him. However, He requires us to turn over the ownership of everything when we become His disciples. That is why we call Him our Lord. All that we do is for His glory. You still go to school or go to work as usual. The difference is, you are now a Christian-student, a Christian-accountant, a Christian-scientist, a Christian-retiree, etc. We can do a **Heart Test** and see to whom we pledge our loyalty. Do you use money and love God? Or do you love money and use God? Is your commitment to God part-time or full-time? Are you ready to serve Him any time? Or do you find it hard to even attend Sunday service? Do you dedicate yourself to God completely or selectively? Besides serving God in the church, do you serve Him in your study or in your work too? Do you honor Him in your finance, hobbies or relationship as well? Someone put it this way: If Jesus is not the Lord of all, then He is not our Lord at all.

結論 CONCLUSION

We need to have a heavenly perspective when we live as Kingdom citizens in the world. We are often fooled into believing that this life is all that we have. People who buy into that lie hope to live longer so that they can maximize their profits and extend their pleasure. But God's people should understand that our days on the earth are nothing compared to eternity. We may not have a lot of toys for fun, but we enjoy what God gives us with contentment. We measure blessings not in terms of quantity but quality. We may not leave a fortune to our children, but we can leave a legacy for God's Kingdom.

引言 INTRODUCTION

耶穌在這段經文中教導我們有關價值的事。價錢和價值之間有明顯的差異。價錢是指你買東西所要付出的費用。價值衡量你對自己擁有的物品有多珍惜。世界上有很多富翁買某些物品是用來保存而不是要使用的。他們不是從沃爾瑪 (Wal-Mart) 買那些東西。他們是透過拍賣爭奪它們。我做了一些調查，找到一些曾經在拍賣會上出售的有趣物品。歌手賈斯汀·汀布萊克 (Justin Timberlake) 在電台採訪節目之後留下一些沒有吃過的法式吐司。主持人後來將那些麵包放到了 eBay 上拍賣。結果一個年輕女孩花了 1,025 美元買下了它們。我希望她能在東西變壞之前以更高的價錢把它轉售給別人！從鐵達尼郵輪上找到最昂貴的遺物是一把小提琴。它的主人是在船沉沒之前為乘客演奏音樂的樂手之一。那件被水損壞的樂器在十分鐘內就以 170 萬美元賣掉。紀念一場悲劇要付出多麼巨大的代價啊！離我們比較近的是貓王曾經擁有的財物。他的一束頭髮以 115,000 美元出售。貓王去世後 25 年，他的髮型師一直保存那一把頭髮。我以為只有我的頭髮才是珍貴的！我不曉得買家會如何在他家中展示那些頭髮。以上這些投資是否明智真的是見仁見智，不過倒是證實了經濟學的一條簡單原則：有需求就會有供應。在我們今天的經文中，耶穌比較在神眼中好與壞價值。耶穌藉此教導我們作為天國公民該有的屬天視野。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 你的儲存位置？ Where do You Store?

首先，耶穌告訴祂的聽眾應該把財寶儲存在那裡。這裡的對比很明顯。耶穌要求他們不要把財寶儲存在地上，而要把它們儲存在天上。在地上儲存財寶會有三種風險。首先，它們可能會腐爛。飛蛾會吃掉它們。布蛾是以布料為食物。幼蟲孵化之後，牠們便開始吃東西。在聖經時代，衣服是一種貴重財物。窮人唯一的衣服可能就是他們每天穿的那一件。那時沒有樟腦丸或殺蟲劑來控制蟲子。被蟲蛀過的衣服就會失去價值。地上儲存財寶的第二個風險是生鏽。在古代世界，貴重金屬含有雜質，它們很容易生鏽。這裡「鏽」這個字也可以解釋為被吃掉。金屬會生鏽，而食物可能會被老鼠吃掉或是會發霉。這些因素都會使財寶貶值。耶穌說，就算東西沒有腐爛或生鏽，也可能會被小偷搶劫。那時的房子是用泥牆建造的。壞人很容易挖洞闖進來。今天，我們擔心越來越嚴重的犯罪率。白天外出和晚上睡覺時，我們都要提高警覺。現代的小偷可以用武器甚至用電腦來打劫。他們侵入人們的帳戶並偷取個人信息。他們還發送虛假的信息到我們的手機和電子郵箱，試圖騙我們的錢。由於上述原因，把財寶儲存在地上是不明智的。耶穌並不是說地上的財寶是不好

的。祂是告訴我們，有一個更好的地方來儲存我們的財寶。金錢是神的祝福。聖經中有許多人都是富翁，例如，亞伯拉罕、大衛和所羅門等等。但是有其他許多信徒卻是社會上最貧窮的人。因此，如果神讓你變得富有，你要感謝祂。但如果神沒有賜給你一大筆的存款，你也應該感謝祂。金錢本身不是罪，但貪錢才是罪。保羅在提摩太前書 6:10 中說：**貪財是萬惡之根。有人貪戀錢財，就被引誘離了真道，用許多愁苦把自己刺透了。**金錢可以是一個巨大的誘惑。世界欺騙我們，使我們以為金錢可以買到一切。金錢可以換取權力、物質和享樂。但金錢買不到失去的健康、人際關係和機會。事實是，當我們離開這個世界時，我們無法帶走任何財富。有一次，一位神學生被邀請去教會講道。他必須買一套西裝。由於他沒有多少錢，他便去一家當舖。他看到價錢牌便嚇壞了。於是他就問店員有沒有更便宜的衣服。他回答說：「當然有。但那些西裝是從殯儀館運來的。」年輕人別無選擇。到了講道那天，他站在講台上就緊張起來。他很自然地將一隻手伸進西裝的口袋裡。然後他發現那件外套竟然是沒有口袋的！他領悟到一個道理：已經過世的人不需要有口袋，因為他們不能帶走任何東西。因此，耶穌說把財寶儲存在天上是更明智的做法。那是一個安全的地方，東西不會變質或貶值。我們可以做一個簡單**時間的測試**來檢查我們是否聽從主的吩咐。你有任何財寶能夠存到永遠嗎？唯有屬神的事物才是永久的。例如，敬虔的品格，好像仁愛、喜樂、和平、恩慈等。我們與神的關係也是持久的，因此我們稱它為永生。當我們去天堂時，我們與神子民的交誼也會延續下去。那麼我們如何積攢財寶在天上呢？我們應該在世上不斷培養以上的素質。例如，我們以神的愛待人，我們花時間在教會內外做神的工作，我們奉獻金錢予基督徒事工，用來擴展神的國度。另外，我們向別人傳福音，邀請他們來教會，幫助他們接受耶穌為他們的救主和生命的主。當我們投資這個世界的資源來賺取永恆的利潤時，我們就是儲存財寶在天上了。

2. 你的光源所在？ What is Your Source?

耶穌要求聽眾檢查他們儲存財寶的地方。接下來，耶穌問他們的光源在哪裡。第 22-23 節需要花一些功夫來理解：**22 「眼睛就是身上的燈。你的眼睛若瞭亮，全身就光明；23 你的眼睛若昏花，全身就黑暗。你裡頭的光若黑暗了，那黑暗是何等大呢！」**我們之所以能看到東西，是因為我們眼睛裡有一些特殊的細胞把光能轉化為電的信號。當我們的大腦接收到信號之後，它會告訴我們所看到的事物的形狀和顏色。隨後，我們便做出相應的決定。例如，司機看到綠燈時會踩油門，看到紅燈時會踩剎車。人類比動物優勝，因為我們根據視覺做出道德判斷。因此，當耶穌提到視力時，祂指的是我們的視野。神是我們最終的光源。如果我們的眼睛被那個光照亮，我們的整個身體就會明亮。我們便會樂意遵守神的話，並選擇做神認為有價值的事情。有些人停下來幫助有需要的人，有些人卻是視若無睹。大多數基督徒都會讀聖經。然而，並不是每個信徒都會被它的內容所改變。我們是否跟隨神的真光，便會產生截然不同的結果。使徒約翰在約翰一書 1:6-7 說：**6 我們若說是與神**

相交，卻仍在黑暗裡行，就是說謊話，不行真理了。7 我們若在光明中行，如同神在光明中，就彼此相交，他兒子耶穌的血也洗淨我們一切的罪。當我們接受耶穌進入我們的心中時，神就使我們成為光明的子女。當我們行在神的光中時，祂會幫助我們過公義的生活。約翰說，如果我們說我們與神有永恆的關係，但我們仍然行在黑暗中，那我們就是在撒謊。罪總是在黑暗中進行的，因為罪被暴露會使人羞恥和內疚。你有沒有試過翻開一塊石頭，觀察下面小動物的反應？牠們會逃命，因為牠們以為你會吃掉牠們！牠們生活在黑暗中會感到比較安全。但基督徒不應該是那樣的。神看到一切，祂也完全了解我們的內心。沒有任何事情可以向祂隱藏的。神希望我們有無愧的良心。如果我們生活在神的光之下，我們就會做出討祂喜悅的決定。當我們看不清楚時，我們會找眼科醫生。兩種最常見的視力問題是近視和老花。檢查視力之後，驗光師會為你配眼鏡，用以矯正你的視力。我的兩個兒子都有近視問題。他們在睡前佩戴特別的隱形眼鏡，壓縮角膜，從而調整他們的焦點。他們不戴眼鏡就能恢復到 20-20 的視力。同樣，當我們的屬靈視覺變得模糊時，我們需要神的幫助來進行視野測試。我們是否看到神認為有價值的東西？不認識耶穌的人有永久性的視力問題。耶穌曾經定一些宗教領袖的罪，因為他們在靈性上是瞎眼的。他們否定耶穌，雖然他們知道耶穌是神。對於這樣的人，神必須進行屬靈的眼科手術來恢復他們的視力。在我們得救之後，有時候我們也會有屬靈近視的毛病，因為我們只注意這個世界的事情。我們只關心自己的事，卻不關心神的國。我們需要通過聖經的鏡片來看事物。此外，撒旦的詭計會損害我們與神的關係，就像紫外線會影響我們的視力一樣。我們需要神的話語來保護我們免受傷害，就像一副屬靈的太陽眼鏡一樣。當我們的視野清晰時，我們就能以永恆的角度來看這個世界。

3. 你的服事對象？ Who do You Serve?

耶穌問祂的聽眾他們把財寶儲存在哪裡以及他們的光源所在。耶穌還有第三個問題：他們服事的對象是誰？請看第 24 節：「一個人不能事奉兩個主；不是愛這個，愛那個，就是重這個，輕那個。你們不能又事奉神，又事奉瑪門。」耶穌說我們要不然服事神，要不然服事金錢，但不能同時服事兩個對象。當耶穌提到服事時，祂指的是忠誠。那時，大多數人都是臨時工或奴僕。臨時工每天服務不同的主人，但奴僕是主人的財產。奴僕為主人服務，直到他們或其他人付出贖金來換取他們的自由。無論如何，兩種工人都會聽老闆的吩咐。今天我們生活在一個不同的世界。有時候，人們抱怨他們像奴隸一樣打工。事實上，如果他們不喜歡自己的工作，他們可以隨時辭職。然而，任何公司都希望雇員盡忠。我太太有一個親戚在一家美國汽車公司工作。他說，如果有員工開外國製造的車子上班，很快就會有人用鑰匙在車上簽名！這與耶穌所說的愛與恨的情感是一樣的。祂提醒我們不要太愛金錢，以至於讓它成為我們的主人。任何曾經約會過的人都知道愛情的感覺。你會日夜思念那個人。你渴望有更多的機會和你的愛人相處。當你在公共場所時，你希望那個人會

忽然出現。如果他碰到什麼小事故，你都會覺得心痛。如果你用金錢代替那個人，你就會明白有些人多愛錢。他們甚至做夢都想著發財。當他們看到自己的存款增加或股票上漲時，他們就會感到高興。他們總是尋找機會賺更多的錢。一張意想不到的帳單的感覺就像被野狗咬一口一樣。耶穌告訴我們，我們只能愛一位主人。福音書中的兩個故事說明了這一點。有一次，一位富有的少年官問耶穌如何承受永生。那位男士說他愛神並且遵守律法。耶穌回答說：「很好！你還需要做兩件事。首先，變賣你所有的財產，把錢分給窮人。第二，來跟從我。」還記得那個人的反應嗎？馬可福音 10:22 說：他聽見這話，臉上就變了色，憂憂愁愁的走了，因為他的產業很多。他愛他的錢勝過愛神。因此，他不願意放棄自己的財產。另外一個人是馬太。他就是馬太福音的作者。還記得他原來的職業嗎？他是一個稅吏。那是一份非常有利可圖的工作。有一天，耶穌經過馬太的稅關，對他說了一句話：「你跟從我來。」馬太有何反應？路加福音 5:28 的記載：他就撇下所有的，起來，跟從了耶穌。馬太的一切包括他的金錢、工作和他的社會地位。不再有昂貴的衣服、狂歡的派對和同輩的認可。他成為耶穌的跟隨者。他不知道下一站是哪裡，在哪裡過夜，如何謀生。這兩個人服事的對象產生截然不同的結果。富有的少年官讓金錢成為他的主人。相比之下，馬太把耶穌看為祂的主人。今天，耶穌並沒有要求我們先放棄一切才能跟隨祂。然而，當我們成為主的門徒時，祂要求我們交出一切的擁有權。這就是為什麼我們稱耶穌為我們的主。我們所做的一切都是為了祂的榮耀。你仍然像往常一樣去上學或上班。不同的是，你現在是一名基督徒的學生、基督徒的會計師、基督徒的科學家、或是基督徒的退休人士等。我們可以做一個心靈的測試，看看我們向誰效忠。你是使用金錢並且愛神嗎？還是你愛錢而利用神？你對神的委身是部份時間還是全時間的？你準備好隨時事奉神嗎？或是你覺得參加主日禮拜都很困難？你是對神完全忠心還是有選擇性地忠心？除了在教會事奉神之外，你在學習或工作中也事奉神嗎？在你的財務、嗜好或人際關係中你是否把神放在首位？有人這樣說：如果耶穌不是我們一切事情的主，那麼祂根本就不是我們的主。

結論 CONCLUSION

當我們作為天國公民在地上生活時，我們需要有屬天的視野。世界欺騙我們，讓我們以為今生就是我們所能擁有的一切。相信這個謊言的人希望活得更久，這樣他們就可以獲得更多的利潤並延長他們的快樂。但神的子民應該明白，我們在世上的日子與永恆相比實在是微不足道。我們可能沒有很多享樂的玩意，但我們滿足於神給我們的賞賜。我們衡量祝福的標準不是數量，而是質量。我們可能不會給後代留下很多遺產，但卻為神的國留下了影響。