



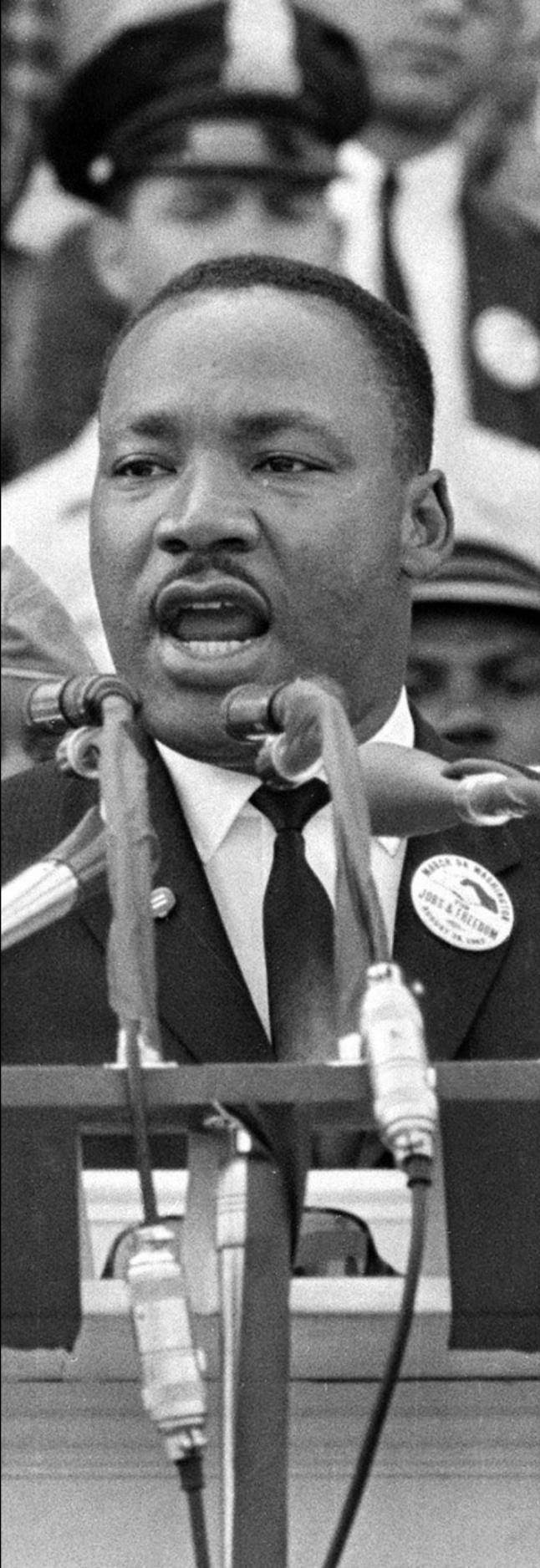
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# LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

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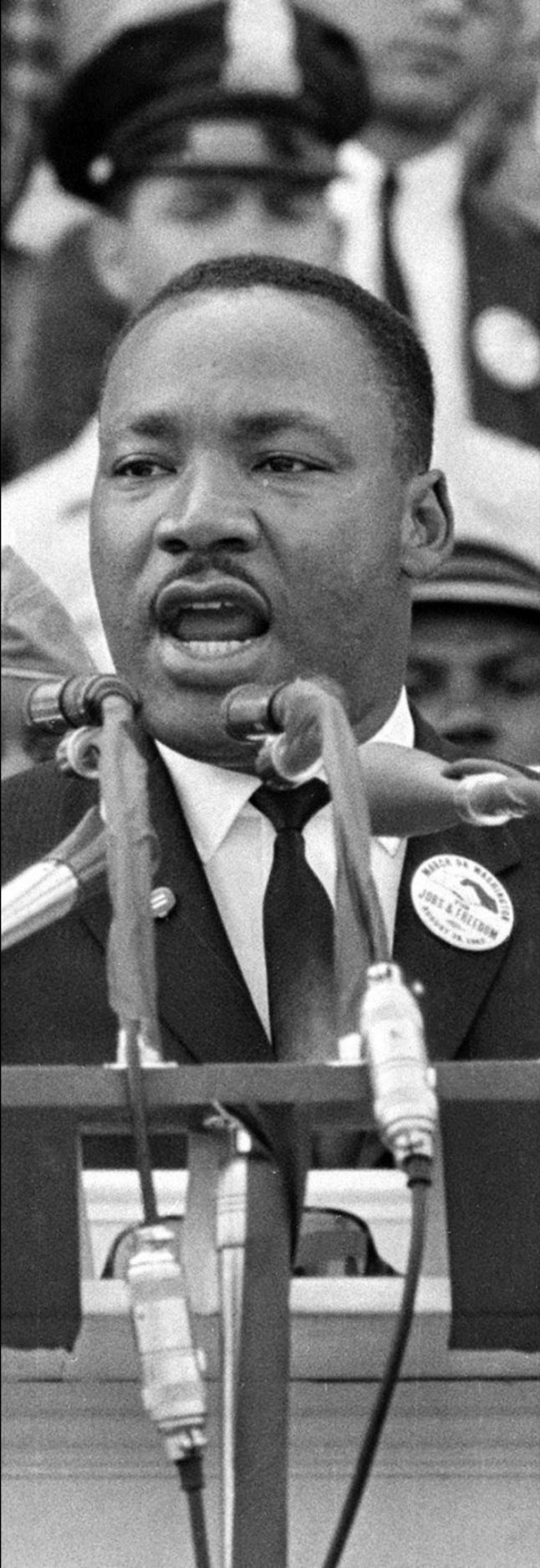
The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6:19-24 "Your Greatest Treasure"



I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

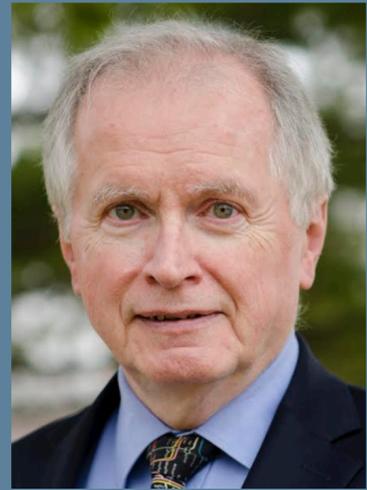
"I Have a Dream" Speech (August 28, 1963)



... I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

"I Have a Dream" Speech (August 28, 1963)





D. A.  
Carson

Life in the kingdom is not simply a question of crossing one hurdle or passing one test, followed by relative indifference to kingdom norms. Involved, rather, is that deep repentance which willingly orients all of life around these norms. ... [Followers of Jesus] comprehend that all of life is to be lived and all its attitudes are to be formed according to the perspectives of the kingdom.



# Three Metaphors:

- Storing up treasures
- Healthy eyes
- Serving two masters



Matthew  
6:19-21

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





Our treasures are the things  
that we hold closest to our  
heart—what we value more  
than anything else.



Dallas  
Willard

Everyone has treasures. This is an essential part of what it is to be human. To have nothing that one treasures is to be in a nonhuman condition, and nothing degrades people more than to scorn or destroy or deprive them of their treasures. Indeed, merely to pry into what one's treasures are is a severe intrusion. Apart from very special considerations, no one has a right even to know what our treasures are.



Dallas  
Willard

A main part of intimacy between two persons is precisely mutual knowledge of their treasures. Treasures are directly connected to our spirit, or will, and thus to our dignity as persons. It is, for example, very important for parents to respect the “treasure space” of children. It lies right at the center of the child’s soul, and great harm can be done if it is not respected and even fostered.



Matthew  
6:19-21

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



Colossians  
3:1-3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.



1 Timothy  
6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.



Scot  
McKnight

*If the kingdom vision of Jesus doesn't reshape our approach to possessions, then we are not living out the kingdom vision.* If we are living to the end of our means and have little for the poor, if we are extending our budgets and giving only from what is left over, and if we have not cut back on how we live, then we are not embracing the kingdom vision of Jesus. Money has a way of freezing our hands and feet and stiffening our hearts



As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart. (Prov 27:19)



Matthew  
6:19-21

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



Matthew  
6:22-23

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!



# FANTASY ISLAND



# FANTASY ISLAND

**FOX**





When we don't see clearly, we devalue the things that God cares about and chase after the things that have little value in his eyes.





James  
K. A.  
Smith

To be human is to be on a quest. To live is to be embarked on a kind of unconscious journey toward a destination of your dreams. ... We live leaning forward, bent on arriving at the place we long for. ... To be human is to be animated and oriented by some vision of the good life, some picture of what we think counts as “flourishing.”



James  
K. A.  
Smith

And we want that. We crave it. We desire it. This is why our most fundamental mode of orientation to the world is love. We are oriented by our longings, directed by our desires. ... You can't not love. It's why the heart is the seat and fulcrum of the human person, the engine that drives our existence. We are lovers first and foremost.



Matthew  
6:24

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.



Jesus exposes the lie  
that we can pursue  
both God and Money.



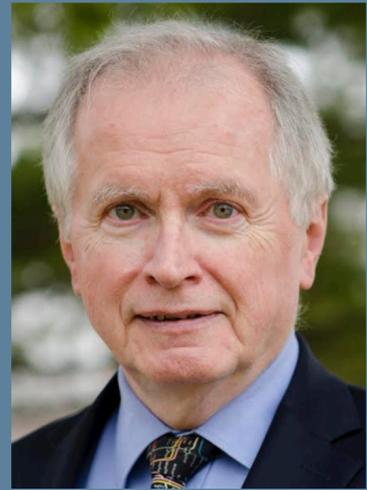
Dallas  
Willard

We cannot but serve our treasures. We labor all day for them and think about them all night. They fill our dreams. But it is not uncommon for people to think that they can treasure this world *and* the invisible kingdom as well, that they can serve both. Perhaps we can make this work for a while. But there will come a time when one must be subordinate to the other. We simply cannot have *two ultimate* goals or points of reference for our actions. That is how life is, and no one escapes.



Dallas  
Willard

You cannot be the servant of both God and things “on earth,” because their requirements conflict. Unless you have already put God first, for example, what you will have to do to be financially secure, impress other people, or fulfill your desires will invariably lead you against God’s wishes. That is why the first of the Ten Commandments, “You shall have no gods who take priority over me,” is the first of the Ten Commandments.



D. A.  
Carson

Let us admit it. Many, many of us try very hard to compromise in this area. Two jobs become available, and for most of us the weightiest factor prompting us to select the one or the other will be the salary, not the opportunity presented by each option to serve the Lord. Or we make a needless move to a bigger and better car or a bigger and better home, for no other reason than to keep up with (or surpass) peers.



Matthew  
13:22

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.



Matthew  
6:31-32

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.