

# Inside OUT

## LESSONS FROM THE MOUNT

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Review Sermon Idea: Priorities for 2016 (Matthew 6:19-24)

1. Set Proper Priorities (Matthew 6:19-21)
2. Adopt a Prayer Focus (Matthew 6:22-24)
3. 40 Days of Prayer

Intro Questions

1. What is the most expensive thing you've bought or owned that has broken? How did it make you feel to lose it?
2. What would you say consumes the most of your time, resources, and attention?

Today, we talked about our priorities. It isn't a bad thing to have wealth. It isn't sinful to enjoy having or using things. Often, however, we begin to pursue those things over anything else. It is easy to be consumed with trying to hold on to what we already have while constantly figuring out how to get more. This passage is all about getting your priorities right.

**Read Together:** Matthew 6:19-21

**From the Text**

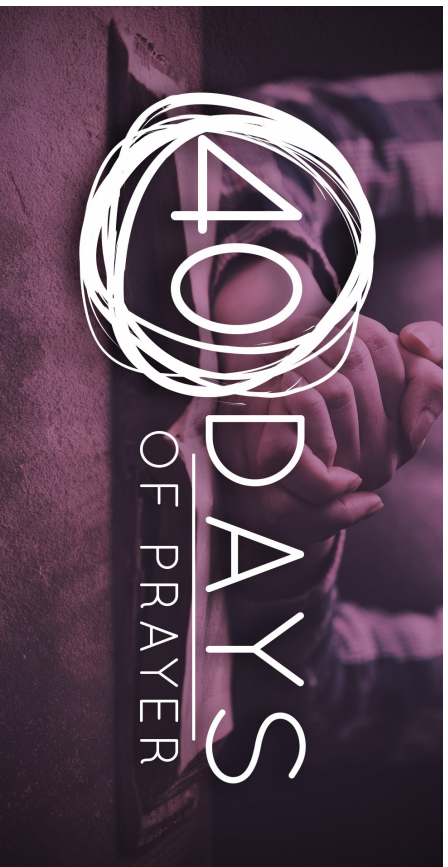
3. How does this passage emphasize priorities in different ways?
4. If there's nothing wrong with wealth, why does the Bible warn people so much about the dangers of money?
5. The "treasures in Heaven" have been difficult for theologians to explain. But, in this passage they are contrasted with the treasures of the world that can be destroyed (or can destroy us). With this in mind, what do you think might be examples of "treasures in heaven"?

**Read Together:** Matthew 6:21-24

6. *This is a reflection question. Don't feel like you must answer aloud.* What are your eyes drawn to? Are you in control of them, or do they take you and your mind wherever they want?

**Application**

7. You may have adopted a New Year's Resolution. What is one spiritual priority you want to "re-set" for your family this year?
8. Tomorrow begins day 1 of the 40 day prayer challenge. Don't forget to sign up online if you haven't already done so. If you've already identified some of your 5 prayer items, share them with the group.



We want to start off 2016 with each of our families praying together. We are calling it the “**40 Days of Prayer**.” We don’t want just some families to participate, we want **all** of our families to be involved. *Growth happens best when we are growing together!* We want all of our members to experience the tremendous blessings that come from a consistent and intentional season of prayer.

## ABOUT THE PRAYER CIRCLE

We are asking each family to pick 5 things to pray about each day as you work through “Draw the Circle.”

## ABOUT THE 40 DAYS

- Begins Monday, January 4th
- If married, read and pray aloud with your spouse
- If single, use this time to grow closer to God. Your church family will be walking with you through this journey



We are asking for one of your 5 spots to be a new Children’s Building. Ask him to clarify what we need to do and seek out how you can be involved.

- Doing this together is the **KEY** to success
- 2 Periods of fasting will be the weeks of Jan. 11th & Jan. 25th. (More info to come)
- Fill out the registration card & bring to the welcome desk today to get started

For more information, or to sign up online, go to [tabernaclefamily.org/40days](http://tabernaclefamily.org/40days)



Chad and Debbie were a part of a small group of people we asked to go through a test round of the “40 Days of Prayer.” Here is their story.

### FROM DEBBIE:

I must admit that when we started this journey, I was reluctant... I knew it would require several things of me... time out of my schedule, commitment, patience, humility and a desire to change. And I will say that ALL of those areas were required. But the more Chad and I spent time together in the Word and in prayer, the more I began to look forward to it. I recognized that “my” schedule was not what mattered, but it was God’s schedule we are striving for...

We started with our “list” of things to pray for... and God did answer prayers on so many levels for many of our requests. But the more we invested... the more I began to see God changing our “list”. Those basic and obvious requests were being replaced with prayers to change us! Asking God to show us what we SHOULD be praying for. Figuring out what His list looks like instead of our own...

We have so much further to go and God keeps working on us and through us in unimaginable ways.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to be involved in this round, and can’t wait to see what God has planned for us and the church in the coming days, months and year.

### FROM CHAD:

The 40 Day Prayer Challenge and the book “Draw The Circle” have drawn Debbie and I closer together in our marriage. We have experienced many blessings from the Lord in the areas of our finances, projects moving toward completion, and in our jobs. Although we still seek answers to some of our prayers, we know and are confident that God is at work, even now, with His Master Plan to meet all our needs.