

# crocs, cobwebs, AND THE cross

Matthew 6:19-24 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

## DISCUSS

The challenge for us in this new year is to live authentic Christian lives. It is not to make spiritual resolutions, because those will come automatically when you desire to live Christ-like lives. So how do you live an authentic Christian life? Read Matthew 6:19-24. These verses are part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where He teaches His disciples to cultivate true authentic inward righteousness over a hypocritical outward righteousness.

Here are the three questions you need to ask yourself to help you live authentically:

### Where is your heart? (v. 19-21)

- What are the reasons given in this passage why you should not store up your earthly treasure? Does it mean that it is wrong to invest your money and be rich?
- What does "love of money" really mean? How is the love of money being manifested in people's lives? Why is hoarding earthly wealth a waste of time and will only bring heartache in the future?
- How do you feel that everything actually belongs to God and was just entrusted to you?
- How does verse 20 describe treasures in heaven? How do you invest in your heavenly rewards?

### What do you prefer (v. 22-23)?

- What do you usually choose to look at, fill your minds with, that will surely affect you as Jesus said?

- What happens if your eyes are focused on the good and godly things? How about if your eyes are attracted to and focused on the allure of the sinful world (v. 23)?
- Do you prefer to look at and seek after godly, spiritual things or do you prefer and desire the sinful, earthly things? How does your preference naturally come out of you? Your choice indicates where you are spiritually.

### Whom do you serve (v. 24)?

- Why would Jesus say that you can only serve one master, not two?
- Whom do you place your trust and confidence in: in God or in the things of this world? Why would loyalty to Christ mean rejection of the world and vice versa?
- How do you give priority to God when you say that You serve Him? How is it being shown in your actions?
- Do you agree that when you don't have so many earthly things to hold on to, it is easy to let go and be free to live for Christ? Why?
- Whom do you serve? Only when that question is answered, will you be able to live an authentic Christian life.

## REFLECT

Have you resolved to live an authentic Christian life? Ask yourself:

- Where is my heart, in the things of the world or the things of God?
- What do I prefer, the things of the world or the things of God?
- Whom do I serve, God or the world?

## PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for another year that You are blessing me with. As I desire to live for You, Lord God, may I live an authentic Christian life with the help of the Holy Spirit so that I can live a life worthy to be a witness to the world for You. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.