



# TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

BIBLE TEACHER

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## *There IS an* **ALTERNATIVE**

- *Studies In The Sermon On The Mount* -

TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH 1992

*Subject: 'The Tragedy Of Mr. Facing-Bothways'*

Matthew 6:19-24

1. **A question of treasure (v19-21).** What was Christ not allowing and disallowing?:
  - (a) No ban on possessions themselves.
  - (b) No ban on saving for a rainy day.
  - (c) No ban on enjoyment of the good things which our Creator has given us richly to enjoy.
  - (d) He forbids his followers the selfish accumulation of goods. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth.
2. **A question of vision (v22-23):** to 'fix the eye' and to 'set the heart' are synonymous (Ps. 119:10,19). Just as our eye affects our whole body, so our ambition is what makes a person 'tick', it uncovers the mainspring of their actions, their secret inner motivation. Jesus goes on to define what the alternative is: He defines what to seek, first. Not our own material security (food, drink and clothing) but God's rule and righteousness.
3. **A question of worth (v24):** anybody who divides his allegiance between God and Mammon has already given it to Mammon. To try to share God with other loyalties is to have opted for idolatry. Here is a question not of comparative durability or comparative benefit but comparative worth: the intrinsic worth of the one and the intrinsic worthlessness of the other.

*'You may get to the very top of the ladder, and then find it has not been leaning against the right wall.'*

- A. RAINE