

Sermon on Mt TREASURE

Matt 6.19ff

Two difficult things in life: *Focus and Balance*

Balance...

It is easy to be an acetic, or a hyper-holy person.

It's also very easy to go to the other extreme... Jesus loves me, we're under grace so anything goes.

The hard part is walking and maturity right down the middle.

See then that you walk CIRCUMSPECTLY...

So before we even talk about “treasures”, remember we are looking for balance!

Not interested in poverty, nor lavish excess... we are looking for *balance in our walk*.

Also, we are discussing “thing”, because Jesus refers to those things which rust, decay and can be stolen.

The actual Greek word for treasure is THESAUROS...English word “thesaurus”.

A thesaurus is a collection, repository, reservoir, cache.

So when Jesus talks about treasures, he's talking about *those things that we collect or hoard or carry in our heart*.

It is an important question because Jesus says...

Matt 12: A good man brings treasure out of his heart.

That is, whatever is in abundance and ascendancy in my heart is going to come out.

Matt 13: A householder brings out of his treasure both things that are new & old.

In other words, he has in his heart, in his life things that are:

old and important and should be kept; but also things that are of a new revelation that he can give out.

What a man loves, that is his God. For he carries it in his heart, he goes about with it night and day, he sleeps and wakes with it; be it what it may - wealth or self, pleasure or renown. (Luther)

We know that “laying up” is not in itself sinful. (See the Parable of Talents...investing, getting interest, etc)

So refine the question: ***What captivates, delights, enthralls me?***

Is it ONLY what I can see, touch, taste or feel? Is it only a bank account; savings; real estate; possession?

He who dies with the most toys... *still dies*.

Here's our dilemma: How do I live BLESSED...but not BOUND?

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, *who gives us richly all things to enjoy*. (1 Tim 6.17)

How do I live BLESSED but not BOUND by my blessings?

Jesus: Give and it will be given back to you... (Luke 6)

“Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold NOW IN THIS TIME—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, *with persecutions*—and in the age to come, eternal life.”

It seems like we are promised temporal, earthly blessings WHEN we follow Jesus! So...

How do I live BLESSED but not BOUND by the blessings that surround me?

HOW do I keep my focus on the TRUE treasure in life? BALANCE!

Consider Lot's wife. What did Lot's wife do wrong?

She was IN SODOM, but more than that, SODOM WAS in her!

How do I live HOLY in an unholy world?	:PURE in a FILTHY Sodom?
:Righteous in an unrighteous society?	:Stay CLEAN among the UNCLEAR?
:eat their food...but not indulge;	:Enjoy their pastimes...but not fall into their lust?
:enjoy the luxury of Laodemia...but not depend on it for my source?	

How do I stay IN it but not OF it?

KNOW YOUR WEAKNESS

...this goes back to the private thing, right? No one knows Your weakness...

:What stumbles you; trips you; slightly diverts you from following Christ effectively

:What draws you like Lot's wife...bauble captivates you...

Know what diverts your attention from the treasure of the Kingdom and REMOVE IT!

Only YOU know how much EGYPT you're letting into your life!

...how much Gomorrah is in you. ...how much sodom makes you feel good.

We are entering more and more into the days of Noah AND Sodom, *one big party*. (Lk 17)

Only you know how much of the **party** is in your SPIRIT!

Am I on the Abraham side, packed up and moving everything into Canaan land? Great!

Am I on the Lot side? Fighting to maintain a balance in sodom? Good!

I struggle to make sure I will NEVER be on the pillar of salt side with Lots wife.

Really? Work out NOT your husband's salvation; wife's salvation... KNOW YOUR WEAKNESS!

So let's get to a solution for all of us: 2 Cor 4...

I MUST REALIZE THE VISIBLE IS PASSING AWAY

Therefore we do not lose heart.

Even though our outward man is perishing, the inward man is being renewed day by day.
For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding, eternal weight of glory,
while we do not look at the things which are seen, *but at the things which are not seen*.
For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Temporal... (in the book of Hebrews) for a season

I MUST REALIZE THE INVISIBLE IS ETERNAL

Lay up for yourselves Treasures in heaven. What does that mean?

Well I think the obvious answer is simple.

The treasures we lay up in Heaven are the things we give up for the gospel down here!

When we say no to the flesh down here *we are laying up Treasures in the spirit there!*

When we choose to give down here and not hoard *we are laying up Treasures up there!*

So whatever good works we do down here: subjugating our flesh; reaching out to those in need; reaching the Lost around us; *translates into spiritual reality...treasure...over there.*

I give a cup of cold water to an enemy,	I lay up treasure
When I pray for those who persecute me,	I lay up treasure
When I walk circumspectly, concentrate WORD	I lay up treasure
When I give to those that are in need	I lay up treasure

When I support the distribution of Bibles around the world, give to missions, etc

I MUST REALIZE THE ETERNAL IS MOST IMPORTANT

Here's the thing that's so important but so easy!

I can give up something to give to the kingdom. It's so simple!

I can bless that missionary! Sure, not with a \$50,000 check, *but how about a \$5 bill?*

I can pray for the gospel around the world.

I can pray for persecuted countries where our brothers and sisters are suffering.

I can give up an hour here or there to help somebody in need.

So many simple things that have eternal significance.