

# 10

## *Heart Shaped Box*

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### **WHAT'S THE SAME | WHERE'S WALDO**

*Look. Consider. Notice. Pay attention.*



Jesus has spent the last nine weeks enlarging our point of view to help us replace worry and anxiety with power and authority. He has removed the pyramid scheme of Pharisaic religion—uprooting wealth and appearances as indicators of God’s acceptance—and laser focused on compartments of our hearts that will become fully alive when wholly devoted to him.

Even in our last verse, Jesus uses a “looking” term to draw our attention, “For *where* our treasure is.”

My son recently discovered *Where’s Waldo* books. They operate a lot like how Jesus teaches us to interact with worry and anxiety. *Look for me and only me.* Pay attention to how I provide. Make mental notes of my world’s design. Find me in the small things. The unobserved things. The things that most don’t notice. And you will find me. And the kingdom. And the treasure. And the eternal safety you keep failing to find in the safety nets the world has fashioned.

**LOOK FOR ME AND ONLY ME.** Jesus has put a perspective in place that invites us to sit and contemplate the world around us; to boldly come to the Father as a loving dad who cares for his child. *Look in the sky. Look beneath your feet. Look in the garden. Look in your purse. Look to the heavens. Look in your heart.*

In children's Bibles, Jesus is often depicted as sitting on a rock while he teaches. He stays in one spot and asks us to use the power of observation to take inventory of what treasure truly is. And since our very first week, Jesus has made these nine truths the basis for worry-free wealth:

*You are not forgotten* (Matthew 10:29-31, Luke 12:6-7).

*Your life is more* (Matthew 6:25, Luke 12:22-23).

*You are fed* (Matthew 6:26, Luke 12:24).

*You are not expected to be able* (Matthew 6:26-27, Luke 12:25).

*You are clothed in splendor* (Matthew 6:28-30, Luke 12:27-28).

*Your needs are known* (Matthew 6:31-32, Luke 12:29-30).

*You have the keys* (Matthew 6:33, Luke 12:31).

*You have no reason to fear the future* (Matthew 6:34, Luke 12:32-33).

*You cannot fail* (Matthew 6:19, Luke 12:33).

When tempted to turn to worry instead of truth, these passages beg us to look beyond what we see in front of us. They shift our gaze from the things of this earth, to the things of heaven on earth. They remind us that God, in his infinite design for creation, strapped the worries of this world to Jesus' back so we could see these promises fulfilled:

*You are not forgotten because I always remember you* (Hebrews 6:10).

*Your life is more than what worries you because I gave up my own Son to make sure of it* (John 10:10).

*You are fed because my broken body enabled the Spirit to fill you* (Luke 22:19).

*You are not expected to be able, because I am more than able* (John 14:12).

*You are clothed in splendor because I hung naked and ashamed on a cross (John 19).*

*You are known because I intercede on your behalf (Romans 8:34).*

*You have the keys because I made it my mission to please the Key Maker (John 4:34).*

*You have no reason to fear the future because I'm committed to helping you when you're in trouble (Psalm 46:1, Hebrews 13:5-6).*

*You cannot fail because my Father's love never does (Psalm 136).*

### **WHAT'S DIFFERENT | NOTHING**

It is fitting that in our final week, there is nothing different between these two passages. No punctuation, no wording, not a single iota of tense or intent. Nothing.

We have found the convergence zone for both Matthew and Luke's accounts. Each author had different audiences, themes, purposes, and callings. Each book was written at a different time for different reasons. But they both found the common ground without an inch on either side. God eclipsed their experiences with the silver bullet he purposed in taking down worry for good.

*What your heart pursues is where your treasure will be found.<sup>1</sup>*

Jesus has whittled away worry to capture our whole hearts. He has helped us identify areas that have gone rogue. He's nudged us to notice choke points in our devotion. He has gently shown us where live wires are sparking to guard our hearts and minds from self-destruction.

He has said none of these things to get your good behavior, but only to enrapture your innermost being. Jesus has made it his mission to keep us from what Dallas Willard calls the "gospels of sin management"; where we keep a scorecard of sins and successes. Jesus knows that religion without a right heart will cause us "to shrivel and die...because [we] are not introduced into the environments for which [we] were made: the living kingdom of eternal life."<sup>2</sup>

In Jesus' final words to the topic of worry and anxiety, we are told to follow the treasure. Just like following the dotted line on a map until X marks the spot, our lives are tracking towards our treasure. And our hearts are the trailguide.

*If our heart and our  
treasure are in the very  
same place, then the  
raven no longer needs  
to scavenge. She can  
settle. She can rest. She  
has found true north.*

**OUR HEARTS ARE TRACKING TOWARDS OUR TREASURE.** If our treasure is here on earth, it will stay behind when we leave it. And until then our hearts will be tattered and tossed. We will go in circles, get lost, dig holes to hide in, and run deeper ruts around the same problems. We will ache and writhe over every pebble that gets lodged in our shoe. Worry will derail the great adventure. We won't even begin.

If our treasure is in heaven, our heart will be fully committed to the Jesus way of life today. We will go off road, jump the tracks, get a little wild, follow the clues, find the secret path, dig up the buried treasure, and embark on the great adventure over and over. We will live abundant, full lives that begin here but will be continued into eternity.

When we see our options on paper, it seems obvious which is the better deal. But in the small details of everyday, we find that worry weakens the logic. It twists the word of God. It warps the way we interact with truth. It makes us fearful of giving away even more when we feel empty to begin with.

The chaos of worldly concern swirls, shakes, and flips the lousy landmarks we've been hoping will lead us to rest. But it is Jesus who is always sitting in the same place saying the very same things. He is the only anchor point for the anxious soul. He keeps us steady. Secure. Safe.

But the reality is that as long as we are on earth, storms will come.

When the disciples feared for their lives in the middle of one such storm, Jesus wasn't worried. He was resting instead. The kingdom Christ came to establish looks like watching the waves of worry roll in and letting gratitude engulf us. It is to know the coming waves have no power to destroy the soul, only to strengthen it.

#### **WHAT THAT MEANS | YOU ARE FREE**

Now, my fellow raven, let's bring this full circle.

“So what does it all mean? If God has determined to stand with us, tell me who then could ever stand against us? For God has proved his love by giving us his greatest treasure, the gift of his Son. And since God freely offered him up as the sacrifice for us all, he certainly won't withhold from us anything else he has to give” (Romans 8:31-32, TPT).

Jesus ends his teaching on anxiety by asking us: where is your treasure? What do you value? Does your treasure entomb your heart or awaken it?

**DOES YOUR  
TREASURE  
ENTOMB YOUR  
HEART OR  
AWAKEN IT?**

The truth found in the passages we've studied, and all throughout the Bible, are supernaturally able to alight our journey from this day forward. The word *alight* means to "descend from the air and settle." To rest. Be still. To perch. If our heart and our treasure are in the very same place, then the raven no longer needs to scavenge. She can settle. She can rest. She has found true north.

When we perch ourselves next to Jesus, he is delighted to lavish the treasure of his time on the trash bird that nobody wanted. He is ecstatic to remove the backpack of boulders from the fragile structure of the human soul. He is overjoyed when we realize we've never been asked to be beasts of burden, but have always been equipped to be birds of the air.

And when we are secure in that identity, Jesus reminds us not to store up the treasure we have found for ourselves. Instead, he gently asks us to notice all of those burdened by the very same boulders all around us.

Jesus circles back to looking language in the summation of this sermon, because he knows our mission is not just to calm the storm inside of our own hearts, but to calm the storms all around us.

**JESUS REMINDS US NOT TO STORE UP THE TREASURE WE HAVE FOUND FOR OURSELVES.** He says *look* in the neighborhoods. In the foster care system. In third-world countries. In the bedroom across the hall. In the bed right next to you. In the church. In the city. In the system. In those snubbed by the system. In the back of the bus. In the front of the line.

He says *consider* the ugly house and the pretty house. Those who look well-off and those who look fed-up. Those you like and those you dislike. Those who are lost and those who are found.

He says *pay attention* to the poor and the rich. The sad and the happy. The broken and the whole. The jerks and the joyful.

He says *notice* those who are the best dressed. The worst dressed. The largest and the smallest. The hungry and the well-fed. The belittled and the big headed. The scavenger and the satisfied.

He says, *Beloved, consider those ravens. Because I did.*

*And look at you now. You are free.*



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## DISCUSS

What has been the most powerful part for you during this study of how Jesus taught us to be free of worry and anxiety? (Reference the list of nine truths in the What's The Same section.)

What was one thing Jesus taught that has already changed the way you interact with worry and anxiety?

What is one verse, thought, or prayer (or more) you can commit to memory to keep your heart wholly devoted to Jesus as you walk out your freedom?



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## READ & REFLECT

Read each of these verses and write down next to each what has been done for you that you never have to worry about again.

Psalm 46

Luke 22:19-20

John 10:7-11

John 14:1-6

Romans 8:34-39

Hebrews 6:17-20

Hebrews 12:1-2



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## PEACE PRACTICE | GO WITH GOD

Look back over all the chapters and pick out a few verses that struck you as powerful or helpful in combating worry. Write each on a piece of paper and put them in prominent places where you will see it everyday. Ideas: on the bathroom mirror, by the kitchen sink, on your iPhone wallpaper, on your nightstand. Maybe start with this one: *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*





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## NOTES

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