

Finding Your True Treasure

A Sermon on Luke 12:32-40 by Pastor Jason Liebenow

What is your life's dream? What do you really want to get out of life? Are you looking for wealth? Do you just want better health? Maybe all you really want is love. Some of us just want to feel like we have a purpose, like every moment we are doing what we were made to do.

Whatever you really want in life, focus on that now. Clearly picture that thing that you truly want and listen to Jesus' words, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Where is your heart?

Today, our God wants to share with us the way to finding True Treasure, something that actually has lasting value. He warns us against wasted earthly efforts. And he urges us to hide our hearts in heaven!

Don't be like the world around you. Don't fall into the wasted earthly efforts. Maybe that's what you have already done with your life. Maybe you are enjoying obtaining what you wanted. Maybe you regret that you didn't get where you wanted to be. But don't hide your heart in those earthly things.

I know people who have. I know of people who treasured money. They just wanted some financial security. Many of them never got it, but even those who did ended up losing it one way or another. Some of them were robbed. Some just lost it. Some spent it foolishly.

Some were extremely wise with their money and they enjoyed it for a long time, but eventually they died and so lost everything that they had worked so hard to get. In the end, their treasure slipped through a hole in their aging purse.

I know of people who treasured love. They just wanted close family and friends that loved them. Many of them never got it, but even

those who did ended up losing it one way or another. Some of their friends just moved on with their lives and moved away. Some of their relationships turned into ugly hatred in the end, in spite of their best efforts to make things work.

Some of them found great friends and a loving family and they enjoyed that love for years and years, but eventually as they got older, their friends died and they were left alone. In the end, death drew near like a thief and stole away their treasure.

I know people who treasured health. They just wanted a long life and a body that was strong enough to get the most out of it. Many of them never got it, but those who did ended up losing it one way or another. Some of them ended up with sicknesses that they had never dreamed they would get. Some of them ended up in just some seemingly random accident and lost it all.

Some of them did get the health they wanted, and they lived a long and enjoyable life, but eventually age caught up to them, and, in spite of all their work, their bodies did slow down and their health deteriorated. In the end, moths found their treasure and ate it up bit by bit until it was totally destroyed.

My fellow members of Christ's flock, do not do what the world does. Do not treasure what they treasure. Nothing on this earth will last. In the end, you will find that all your efforts for those things were wasted.

Now, certainly God wants us to be wise with the earthly blessings he gives us, earthly wealth, love, and health. These can be good things for us to pursue, but watch yourselves carefully. Don't treasure these things like the world treasures them. Don't trust in them as the source of all your happiness, the source of all you need.

Jesus teaches us that wherever our treasure is, wherever that thing is which we most want, that is where our heart will be. If your treasure is in this world, your heart will stay here too. And one day that treasure will be taken from you. One day you will lose everything.

This is why our God implores us to hide our hearts in heaven. Only the treasures that can be found in heaven will last. Only those treasures will be worth our efforts.

Treasures like a right relationship with God. God has sent Jesus Christ to mend the tear that our sin made in that relationship. Through Jesus Christ, you are right with God. And that treasure will never fall out of the holes of a worn-out purse.

Treasures like God's promises to love you and care for you always. Jesus Christ was willing and eager to die on the cross so that you could be assured of his everlasting love for you. Through Jesus' death, you can know that God does love you and all of his promises are true. And if God loved you enough to die for you, he will not let even something like your death take that away. That treasure will never be stolen by some thief coming near.

Treasures like your entrance into God's kingdom. By Jesus' perfect life, you have been declared perfect in God's sight. You wear Jesus' perfection just like you wear your clothes, and so God considers you good enough, perfect enough, to be a part of his kingdom. You are part of the biggest movement in the world: God's royal reign, which is daily saving souls from the devil's clutches. And his reign will extend beyond even the end of this world. That treasure will never be destroyed by moths or anything else.

When we hide our hearts in heaven, when our true treasure is found with God, then we can live the incredible way that Jesus commands us to. Not so the world. Those who seek worldly treasures

have so much to be afraid of because one day they will lose their treasures.

Those who seek God's treasures will never lose them. What do we have to fear? We may lose our earthly treasures, like wealth, love, and health, God has promised to work all things for the good of his church and he has told us that death is only a short sleep from which we will awaken to eternal life with him in heaven. We have God's promise that whatever happens will only serve to bring us closer to our heavenly treasures. What could we possibly have to fear?

Those who seek worldly treasures hear Jesus say, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor," and they panic! They say, "But I need that stuff!" Those who seek God's treasures can do anything with their possessions, even get rid of them all because they don't need their possessions to get what they truly treasure.

Those who seek worldly treasures hear Jesus command for us to be ready at all times for his return, and they are afraid. They say, "Who can be ready all the time? No one can be that vigilant!" They are terrified that Jesus will return and catch them in the middle of their sins. Those who seek God's treasures can be ready all the time because their treasure lies with Jesus and it will be theirs as soon as Jesus returns. Jesus' return is the greatest thing that could happen to us!

Fellow members of Christ's little flock, let us be ready. When we feel greed or pride or lust or hatred trying to sneak into our lives, when we find the temptation to place our hearts on things of this world, let us beat our sinful nature down with this thought, "I will not be caught unprepared when Jesus returns. I will be ready."

The world fears Jesus' return. They fear it because they will not be ready. But you have nothing to fear.

You, who have a right relationship with God...

You, who are assured of God's love for you because of Jesus' death on the cross...

You, who are clothed in Jesus' righteousness and who have entered into God's kingdom...

You have nothing to fear. Through Christ, you are ready. Christ's return will bring you to heaven where you will find both your treasure and your heart. Amen.