

July 28, 2019

“Our Savior Sets Our Hearts on a Greater Glory”

Whether or not it is a myth, it was said that pirates buried their treasure for security. A great example that gave way to that tale of ‘buried gold’ was the fearsome pirate Edward Teach (Blackbeard) who began a brief but notorious career in looting Spanish ships filled with treasures on their way back from South America. Again, a myth or not, Teach wanted no one to have his treasure and went at great lengths to keep it buried and hidden for good.

For us, Is this a myth, or fact? *Our* treasure is buried in *our* hearts. It depends on what I mean by ‘treasure’. Really, it is whatever you hold in your heart to be of great significance or value. Whatever that treasure may be, your heart goes along with it in a sense. It dominates your thoughts. It shapes how you act toward it and toward others. It is precious to you.

What treasure is buried deep in your heart? Is it money? Possessions? Your image? Or something greater? In this lesson for today, our Savior sets our hearts on a greater glory.

- 1) He sets our hearts on our Father, who provides every daily need
- 2) He sets our hearts on the eternal treasure which never fails

## PART #1

Jesus spent some time teaching his disciples where their priorities should lie after commissioning them to preach the gospel. The disciples, like all people, would be in danger of worrying about everyday needs as they went out into their ministries. Jesus follows up immediately issuing his concern by saying **Do not worry**. Instead, consider these things...

Jesus gives an unmistakable example to consider first: Consider how God richly provides for nature in general. **24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ... 27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow...28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you!**

Jesus says not to worry, because God richly provides for the earth and will surely also supply the needs of humanity, the **crown** of his creation. It’s an amazing thought: Though we forget to look at God’s guiding hand in nature and in our own lives, God still works to provide for his creation. Jesus has us stop for a moment to consider how God is in the business of caring for the whole world’s needs. That means He will certainly care for us, his most beloved creation!

A second consideration Jesus gives: Consider how worrying provides nothing, earns nothing, gains nothing, **25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?**

For the disciples and for us, there are, what would seem to be, many ‘rational’ reasons to be anxious or worried. But Jesus assures us that worrying accomplishes nothing. He identifies that if something as simple as adding an hour to our life is out of our control, ultimately the rest is, too. So instead of trusting our control of the situation, and worthlessly worrying when we lose it, why not trust the God who’s actually in control and can do immeasurably more than we can imagine?”

Which brings Jesus to the *most* important consideration Jesus gives: Consider how worrying is a sign of weak faith **28c you of little faith! 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.**

Jesus says not to worry because it ultimately means a lack of trust in God. When we worry incessantly over something, what are we really trusting? For one, we trust ourselves to handle the situation alone. That idea that we have to control our own fate is built into our very nature. We also trust in the objects of God's love too much to solve our problems. We confide in money, holding tightly onto it to solve all our financial problems. We trust in cars, nice houses as well to bring us comfort. Our hearts place their trust on the stuff God gives us instead of God, the one who gives.

Jesus calls us to a different perspective. You are God's special creation. He sustains you not only physically, but also showed your worth, demonstrated by the cost God was willing to pay to save you from your sins of worry. That cost was Jesus, the Son of God! It cost his life on the cross to win heaven for you! Jesus came to win your soul and bestow his grace on you. It's not on you to worry. The cross shows us how much God treasures us. If he takes care of his pets and plants, won't he take special care of you, his blood-bought child? Yes! That's why we may trust in God to provide for us daily, all the while recognizing and thanking him for it.

#### TRANSITION

What comfort! We have a God who not only is in control but is daily providing for us! With a confidence of faith our hearts may leave all its worries and fears in God's hands. A trusting faith will also value what is important, as Jesus points out in the following verses.

#### POINT #2

Jesus has, of course, more to offer the disciples than earthly blessings. He says <sup>32</sup>**"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.**

God gives us the blessings of his kingdom here on earth. The "kingdom of God" Jesus refers to is the *royal rule of God* both in heaven and on earth. It sums up the gracious activity of God-that he has redeemed all people through Jesus Christ; He has adopted us as his children and brought us under the rule of his grace. This is a most valuable treasure; In God's kingdom, there is forgiveness of sins, peace with God, confidence to pray, comfort in suffering and the hope of eternal life. It is, truly, an eternal treasure. These words "Your Father **has been** pleased to give" signifies that it is already given and is still being given to those who receive the gospel with believing hearts!

And so Jesus calls us to treasure this grace in our hearts! He says <sup>31</sup>**But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.**

Even though these blessings are ours through Christ, Jesus wants us to enjoy them in fuller measure. The life of the Christian does not stop after being justified by God. We seek God's kingdom by seeking spiritual blessings and desiring to grow in faith. Our hearts burn and seek to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind. Paul describes this as living according to the Spirit in Romans 8. **"those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds (hearts) set on what the Spirit desires."** Jesus says in this text <sup>34</sup>**Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

So what is your treasure? Where is your heart? We would like to say we value God's kingdom above all else, however, rarely do we want it to be the treasure that dominates our hearts and desires. Our lives are centered around work and financial security. When we are not doing that, we are centered in our social lives, in our phones, in what is happening in the rest of the world. When we're setting our hearts on those things, we're setting our hearts on what "wears out," is "stolen," and is "destroyed" over time. And so we will be found empty and disappointed.

God has given you what doesn't disappoint. Jesus says, <sup>33</sup> **Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.** God valued us enough to give his Son to provide for us treasure that doesn't wear out; that no thief can steal; that nothing can tear apart; that never fails. It is surely with you wherever you go.

Let God's grace be your greatest treasure. Seek it in greater measure. Set your hearts on the welfare of your souls, on the concerns of eternity, on being stronger in faith, on the things that are worthwhile, pure, good. To those who seek first God's kingdom, your every need will be provided for, as our Savior promises that **"all these things will be given to you as well"** – this promise sets you free from pursuing earthly blessings...so you can seek first his kingdom instead.

## Conclusion

Which treasure is buried deep within your heart? As our hearts waver between worldly and spiritual pleasures, Jesus calls us to a different perspective. He sets our hearts on a greater glory. He guides us to trust confidently in the Father who graciously cares for us and to leave our worries to him. He sets our hearts on treasuring the riches of his kingdom which he was pleased to give us in Jesus.

God will continue to bless us with his unfailing grace through faith in him. The best way to leave our cares and worries aside? We place our Father first in our hearts with an uncompromising faith.