



WHAT DO YOU TREASURE?

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For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” These are the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 6:21. Ultimately, we will set our heart - our emotions, affections, desires, will and strength on what we treasure. You can tell by what a person invests their time, resources and effort into determines what they treasure. There is a relationship between our hearts and our treasures. I have been in the ministry for more than half my life and I have heard many people excuse themselves from faithfulness to God by saying, “Well God knows my heart.” There are those who seem to believe that we can possess a love for someone or something in our heart without it being manifested in our lives. This is simply not true. Proverbs 3 teaches us that out of the heart flows the very issues of life. Nothing manifests in our lives without having come through our heart. So if you don’t want it in your life, don’t allow it into your heart. And if something is evident in your life, it didn’t just get there - it came through your heart. One can’t say I love God in my heart and it not be demonstrated in their words and actions. Ultimately Jesus was saying that you will invest your heart into whatever you treasure. If you treasure your faith, then you will invest God’s Word into your heart.

YOUR WORDS AND YOUR HEART | Jesus taught us in Matthew 12:34-35, “... For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.” Here we see that there is a relationship between our hearts and our words. The mouth will not speak in abundance of what the heart is not full of. Jesus even said that out of the treasure of the heart our mouths would speak. Therefore, the things we treasure will make up the just of what we talk about.

YOUR TIME AND YOUR HEART | Another sure way to discover what we treasure is by how we spend our time. For example, in the context of dealing with marriage, the Bible teaches that a husband should cherish his wife. “For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it” (Ephesians 5:29). The word ‘cherish’ comes from the word ‘brood’ which means to create warmth through closeness - the same process that is applied to a chicken and her eggs. When we cherish something, we invest our time into it. It is difficult to believe that you can cherish or treasure that which you spend no time with. Do you treasure Jesus and His Word? If so, how much time do you invest in His presence? In His church? Or reading His Word? A man or woman will always make time for what they truly treasure!

YOUR TREASURE | Whatever we truly treasure will come first in our lives. I think we have the misconceived idea that what comes first in our lives won’t have an effect on the other facets of life. However, Scripture teaches that what you put first will affect everything else. No wonder Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33). In many cases, it is money that people have put on the throne of their lives. Yet Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24). God never says that it’s wrong to have money. It is His will that we prosper (3 John 2) and His Word declares that He gives us power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). The danger lies when

we make the acquiring of it the most important thing in our lives. If money is first, it will govern what you offer God and it will govern your schedule, etc.

Ultimately, money is a type of treasure. But the decisive question is, “Do we treasure our money?” There is an undeniable relationship between what we treasure and our money. You can take inventory of a person’s life and look at how they manage their money to discover what they truly treasure.

YOUR SACRIFICE AND YOUR TREASURE | King David said that he would not give to God that which cost him nothing (2 Samuel 24:24). Our offerings to God should be out of our treasure - it should be of value and costly otherwise it is not truly a sacrifice. I encourage you to reevaluate the idea that you can love God in your heart and it not have any bearing on your treasure. I’ve heard many say, “Well I love God. I may not give anything, but He knows my heart.” Our time, labors and financial gifts are of the most value when they are offered at our cost. Whether it’s a gift to God or a dear loved-one. Gifts reflect the most love when they come from the treasure of our heart.



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