

TFTD 23.8 Thursday March 2nd
Matthew 6: 19 - 34. Treasure in Heaven



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.....for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6: 19 and 21

Today we have more teaching from Jesus flowing from the Sermon on the Mount which Loveday introduced on Monday.

Much of the teaching centres on priorities. Lent, as a season, is one of self discovery and discernment. Who are we before God and what is really important in our lives?

We get much of this from the original extraordinary

teaching in Chapter 5. Jesus described as blessed the people who know their need of God; not the successful who have created a dependence on themselves and have no need of God but those who know they can't rely at heart on their own strength alone. Our treasure here is not what we have acquired ourselves but a passion for the values of God. Those who are blessed are those most like God - the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers.

Jesus urges his disciples not to store up resources on earth, but rather in heaven. His point relates to where we place our trust when push comes to shove and where our security lies. He stresses that we cannot have two masters - God and money. How ironic that US dollar signs proclaim "In God we trust."



We all know how mixed up we feel about these things. In this area many revel in what they own and like to show it off! The local authorities have just put in speed bumps on the main road through Alderley to slow down the very flashy cars which some like to drive too fast in front of their mates! Look at me and what I have.....

And even if we don't play these games this teaching gives us a major pause for thought. How much do I

trust God and how much do I invest in what I have?

The problem we have is the multiplicity and variety of all the conflicting desires inside us. How are we to discover what we really desire in life? Our surface desires are always the most noisy and demanding. But all too often these leave us feeling empty and sad. As we read in Revelation 3:17, “For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realise that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.”

If we are able to discover what we really want, if we can become conscious of the deepest desire within us, then we can discover God’s will. God longs for us to discover what we really want and who we really are.

Treasure in heaven is what lasts. We hear of this often in funerals. What do we remember about this person before God? The qualities which they have left behind. Their love and care and example. Treasure is what really sustains us day by day.

Gerard Hughes writes in *God of Surprises*, “The saint is the person who has discovered his/her deepest desire. They then “do their own thing” which is also God’s own thing. Their will and God’s will are in harmony.....”

As we pray into these things through Lent some words again from Terry Hinks in “Praying the Way” on this passage.

“Such powerful forces lay claim on my life.....
those sterile voices within me,
Shifting with the sands,
Those wants that become needs.....
Yet you, the source of life,
Are the true centre of all.
In you, all things find their rightful place.
With you, life makes sense.”

God Bless
Nick

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