

## TREASURES, MATTHEW 6:19-21

Let us go to Matthew, the sixth chapter, verses nineteen through twenty-one for our thoughts for the day.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:19-21).

For a few thoughts today, quickly, we would like to make a comparative analysis between heavenly treasures and earthly treasures. Now, the word *treasure* means a store, a stock, a reserve, a great quantity of anything collected for future use. We have treasures in the field as the Word of God says of wheat, of barley, of oil, of honey and so on. A treasure means something that is very much valued or prized. And God told Israel in Exodus, the nineteenth chapter, and verse five:

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: (Exodus 19:5).

And the reason that God called Israel a peculiar treasure on that occasion was because God was ready and in the process of bringing to her the Divine Word on Mount Sinai and depositing it in her midst, and, therefore, as a nation, she would become a very great treasure because she would have the Word of God inside her as a nation. Now, then, in Second Corinthians, the fourth chapter, we find, likewise, that we, too, can have this beautiful heavenly treasure. So why spend all your life, beloved, labouring for earthly treasures that only thieves are going to steal and moths are going to eat through and rust is going to corrupt? And besides, if you can prevent all these things, one day you have to die, and you have to leave all these things. They are not yours. You just borrowed them for a little while. And then when you die, they pass on. They belong to someone else.

But if we lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, there is a treasure of knowledge of the

Word of God that we can lay hold of that will be our eternal possession because we allow God to write it in the fleshly tables of our heart. And in Second Corinthians, the fourth chapter, verses six and seven:

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us (II Corinthians 4:6,7).

So he calls this heavenly treasure, this knowledge of the Glory of God coming to us through the face of the LORD Jesus Christ, a heavenly treasure and that God has deposited it in our earthen vessel, in our human vessel, our mortal vessel that we have this opportunity to carry the Word inside this heavenly treasure. So, beloved, the knowledge, of God's Word is a heavenly treasure that if you lay hold of, you are not only laying hold of it here, but you laying hold of it and storing it up, as it were, in heaven, and that will never pass away.

There are two things that God says in His Word that are particular treasures. And one is His Word, and secondly is the fear of God. In Isaiah, the thirty-third chapter, verse six, we find these words:

And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure (Isaiah 33:6).

So the word *fear* means respect for Him, respect for His Headship, respect for His Will, respect for His Way. So when we respect Him, that is a tremendous treasure because with this treasure, this heavenly Treasure stored in our hearts, then no one can ever cause us to murmur against the LORD. When we murmur, and we complain as we go through this life, it is because we are poor inside most of the time than we are outside with the earthly treasures of this life. But if we become rich in His wisdom and His knowledge and if we become rich in the fear of the LORD, then we will respect Him, we will respect His Word, and we will believe it, and we will

lean upon it. We will trust in it. Just like He says that all things work together for good to them that love God. So if we respect His Word, if we respect His Truth, then when we have difficult times, and we have times of affliction and sufferings and testings and so on, then we will respect God. We will respect His Word and we will know that He has a rich heavenly deposit of Truth through that situation that if we will be faithful to pray and study the Word of God and to wait upon Him that we will find that.

Then the Word of God says in Matthew, the twelfth chapter, Jesus encouraged that we bring good things out of our treasure. How can we bring good things out of our treasure if our treasure is almost depleted, perhaps? And, then, in the twelfth chapter, and verse thirty-five, He said,

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 (Matthew 12:35).

So when we have a good treasure inside of us of wisdom and understanding and knowledge of God's Word and we have a good treasure of respect for His Will in our life, for His Headship over our life, for the way that He does things in our life, then, beloved, we will be able to bring out a good treasure out of the good treasure of our heart. We will be able to bring out comfort and consolation, both to our own hearts in times of testing and trial, and we will be able to bring out of that good treasure, substance to share with others when they are going through. So we will have a good treasure if we have wisdom, understanding, knowledge and respect for the LORD.

Then, the Bible talks about the earthly treasure in Psalm seventeen, and fourteen, we find these words about the earthly treasure. Let us make a quick contrast here in Psalm 17:14.

From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes (Psalm 17:14).

So he is saying that an earthly treasure, beloved, even people of this world, the most they can do is fill their bellies with God's treasures of wheat or corn or this or that. Then when they die,

they leave their substance to others. Why would we not choose heavenly treasures in preference to earthly treasures? Seek the kingdom of God first and whatever earthly things you have need of, He will surely add them.

Let us pray.

Father, we thank You for Your goodness, Your mercy, Your love, Your kindness. We thank You for Light, O God, that You have given through Your Word. And You have said, "The entrance of thy Word giveth Light. It giveth understanding to the simple." Give us understanding today, O God, that we might make a comparative analysis between heavenly treasures and earthly treasures, and, thereby, choose that which is great and everlasting and eternal because we pray in Jesus' Lovely Precious Name.

Amen. q