

Where is Your Treasure? Matthew 6:19-21

Today we begin a new series called *Treasure*. The entire series is based on the words of Jesus in Matthew chapter 6. Here's the Scripture for today—**Matthew 6:19-21**

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

And as you think about these words, ask yourself this question:

Where is your treasure?

Today is All Saints Day, and we're celebrating the lives of the saints who have gone on before us.

So, what do you think those saints are doing right now?

Do you think they're sitting up in heaven saying things like...

- "Man, I wish I had a flat screen TV!"
- "Hey you – that's my car! That's my coat—I might need that! Hey, those are my golf clubs, put those back – you're gonna ruin 'em with that swing of yours!"
- "Oh how I wish I had spent more time at the office?"

OR...

- Do you think they're looking into the eyes of people they loved on earth –who they're now going to live with forever—and saying, "I'm so glad I invested in our relationship?"
- Do you think they're looking into the face of God and saying, "I'm so glad I got to know you on earth?"
- Do you think they're still treasuring the fact that when they got there they heard Jesus say, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was naked and you clothed me, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was sick and in prison, and you visited me?"
- Do you think perhaps these words are still ringing in their ears—the words they heard when they first arrived: "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

Now that our loved ones are with God in glory, and they're seeing things from the perspective of God, what do you think is important to them? And are those the same things that are important to us?

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth..." In other words, don't invest all your time, money, and energy in the stuff of earth.

It's not that possessions are bad. You need a car to get around. You need a house for shelter. You need clothes to cover your body. You need money to buy food. There's nothing wrong with those things, it's just that they are not what life is really about. These things sustain life, but they are not life itself.

You see, the problem with possessions is that they don't last. Your car is going to quit running. Your clothes are going to wear out. Your smartphone is going to quit working. And in another month or two your brand new computer is going to be obsolete!

Jesus said, "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." In other words, invest your time, money, and energy in things that matter – things that last—like a relationship with God...and relationships with God's people. Invest time, money, and energy in the Word of God...the Worship of God...and the Work of God. These are things that will last forever. And these are what life is really about.

Now, so far I haven't said anything you didn't already know. If I were to ask each one of you what's really important, I doubt any of you would say, "My stuff." The problem's not that we don't know what's important – the problem is that we struggle to prioritize what's important. We get caught up in the stress, in the busyness, in the stuff of everyday life. We have things to do, and bills to pay, and schedules to keep. And despite our best intentions, we find ourselves pouring our time, energy, and money into the stuff of earth.

That's why we're doing this series called *Treasure*. The goal of this series is to help you slow down, reflect, pray, and think about where your treasure really is. And to really do that, you're going to need to do some homework--some study and prayer on your own between services.

So I really hope you'll pick up the book of daily devotions that goes along with this series. These will help you slow down, reflect, pray, and think about where you might need to make some changes.

Throughout this series, we invite you to think seriously about **two questions**. As you think about treasure on earth and treasure in heaven, ask yourself:

1. Where do I *want* to invest my time, money, and energy?
2. Where am I *really* investing my time, money, and energy?

My guess is that if we really stop to think about those two questions, we're going to find a discrepancy between the two answers.

Where do I want to invest? I feel certain that most of us would say things like,

- "I want to invest in relationships—relationships with family and friends—my relationship with God.
- "I want to invest in God's work on earth."
- "I want to help people."
- "I want to make a difference."
- "I want to invest in my church."

But then when we look at where we're *really* investing ...

- When we look at our calendars and see where our time is *really* going;
- When we look at our bank statements and see where our money is *really* going;
- When we look at our lives and see where our energy is *really* going;

... I'm afraid that a lot of us (myself included) will be very disappointed.

The good news is there's still time to make a change! You can still exchange your earthly treasures for treasure in heaven!

Back in 2002, a whole bunch of European money suddenly became worthless. That's when 12 European countries threw out their old currency and adopted the Euro. Now, different countries had different grace periods for how long you could use the old currency. But Germany was the first to say, "As of January 1, 2002 the Deutsch Mark will no longer be legal tender."

So let's say it's December of 2001, and I'm a German citizen, and I've got all these Deutsch Marks stored up. And I love my Deutsch Marks. I *treasure* my Deutsch Marks. I don't want to let go of my Deutsch Marks, so I refuse to go to the bank and exchange them for Euros.

And then all of a sudden it's January 1, and guess what? All my Deutsch Marks are worthless. All that money that I've stored up for myself is worthless.

In the same way, the day is coming when all our treasures on earth will be worthless. So what we need to do now is exchange treasure on earth for treasure in heaven.

It's too late to exchange your German Marks for Euros – but as long you're still breathing, you still have time to exchange your earthly treasure for treasure in heaven:

- When you give to the poor, you're storing up treasure in heaven.
- When you help somebody in need, you're storing up treasure in heaven.
- When you spend time praying and worshiping and studying the Bible, you're storing up treasure in heaven.

- When you teach a Sunday school class, or mentor a young person in the faith, you're storing up treasure in heaven.
- When you visit a shut-in, or make a casserole for somebody who's been in the hospital, you're storing up treasure in heaven.
- When you go on a mission trip, or support people who are missionaries, you're storing up treasure in heaven.
- When you give to God's work through Main Street United Methodist Church, you're storing up treasure in heaven.

Whenever you invest your time, money, and energy in the things of God, you're storing up treasure in heaven

So I ask you: ***Where is your treasure?***