

X Marks the Spot

Food for Thought for the week of August 23, 2015 (Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Pastor Brandon spoke from Matthew 6:19-24, highlighting the fact that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. Reflect on why Jesus would talk more about money than about heaven and hell. Think about how this principle of treasure plays out in your life. Take a look at your checkbook or your charge slips; these are fairly accurate measures of where you place your treasure.

1. If you awoke one night to find your house on fire and you only had 60 seconds to take one item from the house, what would you take?
2. What annual salary or income do you think would make you rich?
3. Why is the subject of money such a taboo issue in our society?
4. What are some socially acceptable social guidelines for discussing money with friends and family?
5. Is God concerned about money? If so, why?
 - What about money makes this such an important issue for God?
6. Let's define treasure.
 - How would you define treasure in your life?
7. Some examples of treasure in the Bible are found in Matthew 2:11, Matthew 13:44, and Luke 6:45.
8. So far we've looked at treasure from a human perspective. How would God define treasure?
 - What if God was not "All In" concerning giving His treasure?
What would our lives look like then?

This next week think about treasure. Where is your treasure? Why is your treasure there? What does this tell you about your heart? It's really not about money. God doesn't need our money. His checking account is not overdrawn. He does have enough money to pay the bills this month. He is interested in our hearts. Even when we talk about *our* money it's a misnomer because everything really belongs to God. If that's the case, how does He want us to use the money He has given to us?

Scripture references

Matthew 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 13:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Luke 6:45 (NASB)

⁴⁵ "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NASB)

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

1 Timothy 6:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NASB)

¹⁸ *Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,
¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

2 Timothy 1:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to *you*.

James 5:3 (NASB)

³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!