

# DAY 17 TREASURE



## Matthew 6:21

*"Don't hoard for yourselves earthly treasures that can be stolen by thieves. Material wealth eventually rusts, decays and loses its value. Instead, stockpile heavenly treasures for yourselves that cannot be stolen and will never rust, decay or lose their value. For your heart will always pursue what you value as your treasure."*

What comes to your mind when you hear that word: Treasure? Is it Pirates of the Caribbean? New toys? Jewels? Precious

metals? Well, the English word for treasure comes from the Old French word, Tresor (that is the name of an expensive Lancome perfume, btw:) Both words carry the meaning of "something of great worth." The French word sounds a little more luxurious. To treasure something is to value it greatly; cherish. Treasure is defined: "to find value in a person or a thing." Valuable or precious possessions of any kind; to keep or regard as precious; to value highly.

This past late summer, my husband and I had to evacuate our family cabin in the Santa Cruz mountains when the CZU Complex fire was spreading- indeed like wildfire, toward our 90-year-old summer place. Within about an hour, we quickly had to decide what was really the most valuable to us- what our true treasures were. Ron FaceTimed me and pointed this phone at various things: do you want this? That? It was kinda intense! But, ultimately, we didn't choose beds, couches, rugs, or dressers- we chose precious family pictures, hand-knitted blankets, watercolor paintings from Ron's Aunt for our wedding. We'd never had to do that before. That exercise brought into a clearer focus what some of our true treasures really were!

Our scripture tells us: For your heart will always pursue what you value as your treasure."

When all is said and done, there are just worldly treasures and heavenly/eternal treasures. Matthew 6 tells us that earthly treasures eventually rust, decay, and lose their value. Do you know what your earthly treasures are? Your home? Your car? A favorite piece of art? Your financial portfolio? A favorite piece of clothing? What's the most precious and valuable to you?

Scripture tells us that eternal treasures are: God, His Word, and people. None of these can ever be stolen- they will not rust, decay, or even lose their value. Are you pursuing knowing God better and better each day-- by making time for Him, obeying Him? Are you reading and meditating on His word- talking about it with others? Are you investing in people- praying for them, serving them, loving, and listening to them? If you are- if what is becoming most valuable to you is God, His Word, and people- your treasure and your heart will be there too. And there's nothing better!

### Daily Practice

As a sign of your intention to invest in treasures of heaven, can I suggest that you make today a "no shopping day?" No going to the store, shopping online, nothing today. Instead, spend the time that you would have spent shopping doing something thoughtful or special for someone else- a family member, neighbor, or friend in need. Be thoughtful and intentional about serving someone else and loving them today. Amen.

The below reflections are written by congregants & staff of CPC. All reflections are following Trevor Hudson's book Pauses for Lent and are both heavily influenced and borrowed from his work. Any quotes without attribution should be credited to him.