

Where is your Treasure? Luke 12:13-34 **(sermon as part of a family service to end a Pirates holiday club)**

Luke 12:38 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

What's your treasure? What's your most important possession?

When I was young I bought a telescope because I was interested in astronomy. For me that was treasure and I really looked after it. Now it's in bad condition - because I found that other things were more important.

Pirates are famous for searching for treasure - or stealing it from someone else. They thought that making themselves rich would give them a better life. Some like Sir Francis Drake or Captain Henry Morgan became very famous and very rich, but most ended up dead or in prison. A few gave up their life of crime. We heard of a slave captain called John Newton this week who changed completely and trusted in Jesus.

Even though we may not be pirates, most people search for things in life that make them better. After all, we only have one life don't we. Why not be comfortable?

Our story today wasn't about a pirate but about a farmer who was blessed so much with a good crop that decided to store it all up and be comfortable for many years. What was God's reply to him: You fool! He had forgotten the fact that everything he had out of the ground was from God. It was God who had given the rain, the sunshine - the growth - his wealth.

And he found that God can call time on our lives at any point. We often think we are going to live to be 80 or 100. But how long do we have. Princess Diana - she was 36. She had all life could offer - and wasn't particularly happy.

There's life and there's eternity. You know about life - what about eternity?

Jesus encouraged his disciples about what they should treasure most. Was it going to be things on earth, like cloths which the moths get? You know, your latest outfit - designer label - ruined by a horrible little insect. Or what about things that rust - the nice shiny car that eventually turns into a rust bucket if you don't crash it first.

Jesus says - lay up treasure in heaven because that's something that lasts for eternity.

Do you know what God calls people who follow HIM? His children.

1 John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Or try this one

Eph 1:3 (C) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

What it says is that if we are one of His people, we are special to Him because we are His son or His daughter.

When we start to think of our relationship to God as being a son or a daughter that changes our attitude to what we treasure and what we think is most important.

Maybe you're heart this morning because you've been invited or you've been coming for a while, even a long time and you can't really say that you are a son or daughter of God. Well the good news is that God desires that every one should become His son or daughter but unfortunately, most people for one reason or another don't accept His offer to become one. But the offer is there for you this morning. God wants you to become part of His family.

That's why Jesus came. He came and died on the cross so that we might find forgiveness for all the times we have done things that are wrong (the Bible calls them sin) which have kept us separate from God - and now we can become part of His family. All we have to do is accept it.

Maybe God has already been working in your life. The man in our story already knew the blessings of God in the wealth he had - but he refused to recognise Him and respond. What about you?

God wants to find you this morning and give you that invitation to come to Him, receive forgiveness, to receive eternal life and be part of His family. It's free and available. All you need do is pray and ask Him for it.



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