



Sermon Discussion Questions
02-15-26

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Sermon Series: Treasures
Week 3: Treasure Chest

1. ICE BREAKER: Pastor Dale shared a story about a guitar that he once owned and sold for \$300, which is now worth A LOT more than that! Share with your group about something you sold that you wish you had kept, OR something you kept thinking it would one day be worth a lot of money.
2. Read our Scripture for this week, Matthew 6:19-34 :

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns,

*and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?
27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

This is a portion of Jesus' first public sermon - the Sermon on the Mount. Is there a particular section or verse that is sticking out to you as you read it today? How do you think this teaching would have been received by Jesus' original audience?

3. Through this series, we have been talking about treasures and generosity, and the idea that there is spiritual law present here. In fact, generosity could be considered a keystone habit - a foundational behavior that triggers a domino effect, with the potential to create widespread positive change in every area of life.

What are some of the keystone habits that are a part of your life now? Do you believe generosity is, or could be, a keystone habit? Why or why not? How might increasing generosity affect your faith?

4. Reread Matthew 6:25. The teaching here from Jesus is simple to understand, but harder to implement: "Don't worry!" Last week, we talked about the fight or flight response to fear in response to external conditions, but worry is more of an internal condition.

Are you someone who moves easily into worry? Why or why not? How does worry affect your trust in, and relationship with, the Lord? What is Jesus' rationale for why we do not need to worry?

5. Read Matthew 6:19-20 again. Here we learn another tenet: Be happy! Pastor Dale pointed out that the key here to happiness is in delayed happiness. We may feel we are delaying happiness now when we choose to store up treasures in heaven, but we are investing in an eternal happiness to come.

Talk about the idea of instant gratification in our lives and in our world today. What makes this teaching hard? Share some examples of things that you have waited for in your life, that were more than worth the delay in the end!

6. The Christian philosopher and writer Dallas Willard said, *“The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.”*

React to this quote. Do you agree or disagree? Why? What do you picture when you think about an “all-inclusive community of loving persons?”

7. There are two things that God is very passionate about in His Kingdom: the poor and the lost. Read Acts 2:44-45 and Luke 19:10.

Where have you seen examples of how God is passionate about the poor and the lost? Why do you think these people matter so much to God? Talk about some of the ways that you, either as an individual, or as part of Community of Hope, can develop this same passion.

8. When we practice giving back to God, we do so for different reasons. Typically, we begin by giving out of self-interest, then out of gratitude, then obedience, love, and finally, spiritual vision.

Define and discuss examples of each of these motives with your group. If you feel that you have moved along the spectrum, describe what that journey looked like for you. What are some other reasons that someone might engage in giving of their financial resources?

9. PRACTICE: Have someone in your group put on prayerful music.

Look again at the progression of motives for giving, which change as we become more spiritually mature.

Self-Interest → Gratitude → Obedience → Love → Spiritual Vision

Think about where you land now with your practice of generosity, and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight a next step for you as you move forward in trust and relationship with God.