

ACTNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Cell Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Cell Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

Concerning Treasures

Matthew 6:19-21

Pastor Eddie Ho

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- Jesus talked about not storing up treasures on earth. What are treasures? A treasure is something of worth or value, something you like and something you want to protect and keep. As we grow older, the things that we treasure often change. These could be career, friends, health, toys, family etc. These are not bad things. However, we should remember that these things do not last forever and they will fade. In Matthew 16:26, Jesus asks, "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"
- Instead, Jesus calls us to store up for ourselves treasures in heaven. How do we store treasures in heaven? To the Jews, they thought doing good deeds and showing mercy was the way to store up for themselves treasures in heaven. But Jesus addresses the issue of our heart – our heart is our treasurer (Matthew 6:21).
- The Apostle Paul knew that earthly treasures would not last and he valued knowing God infinitely more than earthly things (Philippians 3:8). The valuable treasure that the Father delights to give us is the kingdom of God (Luke 12:32). How can we keep this treasure? Jesus calls his disciples to lose it to keep it – to tune our hearts to God, to hear His voice and leading, and die to ourselves and our will but submit to His will (Matthew 16:24-26).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that we treasure and why do we treasure these things? What are some things that we do not treasure enough? Why should we treasure these things more?
[Children's Activity: Children can join in the discussion.]

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2. As stewards of what God gives to us, how are we to discern the line between appropriate and inappropriate attention to wealth on earth (eg, buying insurance and financial investments)? How can we guard ourselves against storing treasures on earth?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Proverbs 13:11,22; Luke 14:13-14; Hebrews 13:14]

3. What do you treasure most about your relationship with God? How can we keep our eyes focused on the treasure that is eternal and tune our hearts toward God?

PRAYER POINTERS

- Thank God that He is generous and delights in giving us far more than what we ask and He has given us the kingdom of heaven.
- Ask God for the spirit of wisdom and revelation, that we would know the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:17-18).
- Ask the Spirit to fill us each day, that we will learn to tune our hearts to His voice and leading.

MEMORY VERSE

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:20-21, ESV)

PRACTICAL HANDLE

This July being Pledge Month, pray and consider the amount you can pledge – not out of compulsion or emotion, but to honour the Lord with your wealth and first fruits. You can put your pledge card into the pledge box in the sanctuary for the both of July or drop it into the offering bag on Sunday.