

THE UNDISCOVERED TERRITORY - IN YOU

"The Treasure Worth Finding"

Matthew 6:19-20

As a noun, the word *treasure* is defined as (1) wealth, especially in the form of jewels and precious objects, often accumulated or hoarded (2) something of great value or worth (3) a highly valued or much loved person.

The Bible has a great deal to say about treasure. Our text reminds us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Our life will follow our treasure. In The Message, Matthew 6:21 reads, *"The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being."*

In his Expositions of the Scripture, Alexander Maclaren, writing about this text said, "For what the Lord means here by "treasure" is not merely money, or material good, but whatever each man thinks best, that which he most eagerly strives to attain, that which he most dreads to lose, that which, if he has, he thinks he will be blessed, that which, if he has not, he knows he is discontented."

The question is not, "Do we have a treasure?" All of us have a treasure. What we need to be asking is, "What is our treasure?" Jesus tells us that there are only two kinds of treasure. There is the earthly treasure and there is a heavenly treasure.

Since treasure on earth is fleeting, transitory and temporary we must focus, concentrate on things that will last. Our salvation, good deeds, evangelism, missions, Kingdom business will last. (Matthew 25:34-40)

Since treasure on earth is subject to theft and decay we must make secure deposits in heaven. Peter tells us that one day we will "obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4).

God's Word is imperishable (1 Peter 1:23) and the gospel is God's treasure to be shared (2 Corinthians 4:7).

God is the treasure. The undiscovered territory is not so much an attempt to find ourselves as it is an effort to discover more of God. Do you want to be a better person? Do you want to discover and use the potential God had placed within you? The discovery of self begins when we "seek first His kingdom" (Matthew 6:33).

Treasure His wisdom. Speaking of wisdom Solomon said, "If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden **treasures**; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:4-5).

Treasure His Word. Job said, "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have **treasured** the words of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12). The Psalmist declared, "Your word I have **treasured** in my heart, that I may not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).

God and His Kingdom is the only treasure worth finding. Jesus said, "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. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:44-46).