

“Your Misplaced Treasure”

Matthew 6:19-21

Series: De-Stress Your Fest Week 1

“We are stressed because we treasure the wrong things”

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Isn't it funny how the most wonderful time of the year somehow becomes the most stressful time of the year?

Good morning, everyone! My name is Nathaniel Brodish. I am the young adult's director here at Woodside. I wanted to welcome all of you joining us this morning whether you're in person or online, welcome! I wanted to give a warm welcome to those joining us for the first time.

Welcome, I know I can speak on behalf of everyone here, we're so glad you're joining us this morning. I want you to know that you belong before you believe! From the moment you walk through those doors you are loved and a part of this community!

Last week Pastor Doug ended our series Love Comes To Town with an amazing word surrounding the idea of everlasting love. Today I am kicking us off with week one of a two week series we are calling “Destress your fest.” If you have your bibles, please open to Matthew 6 starting in verse 19.

I am going to ask everyone to please stand up and high five three people around you. (After that's done, please remain standing if able for my opening prayer.

(PRAYER OF BLESSING OVER US AS WE OPEN GOD'S WORD AND COMMUNE TOGETHER UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE.)

You can be seated. Again if you have your bibles, please open to Matthew chapter 6 starting in verse 19.

How many of you are hosting a holiday this year? (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years) How many of you will be gathering with family and friends this holiday? This is the beautiful thing about us as humans, our soul desires community. This is one reason we gather on holidays, birthdays, and even like today. When we are looking at the world around us, we can often be stressed, scared, and full of fear about what the outcomes of these gatherings may be. We love the holidays because we love people — but the same gatherings that fill our souls can overload our minds... Jesus speaks right into that anxiety.

Matthew 6:19–21

NIV 19

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

Here’s the big idea Jesus is giving us: Misplaced treasure leads to misplaced trust. And misplaced trust always produces stress.

This passage is a little cryptic.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” what does that even mean? “Shouldn’t it be the other way around?” These are all thoughts that can come to mind when reading this passage and the passage that’s identical to it in the book of Luke. We must see the progression of things. We must break down what Jesus is saying. Your heart will follow what you treasure, your treasure doesn’t follow your heart! Even if your heart is in the right place, it is all about what you treasure — so what do you treasure? Things of this world or things of heaven? Here is a short list of the things that we may treasure on earth: money, status, grades, our children, our businesses, our image, the approval of others. The list is whatever you value, protect. The things we build our lives around and even look for security. The things we trust in, the things we deeply care about. The danger isn’t loving our kids, or stewarding your finances, or building your business — the danger is when gifts become gods.

However, there is another side to this. There is the heavenly treasure that the passage references. But what are they? They are things that belong to God (things that God treasures) — generosity, loving our neighbor, tithing, sense of belonging, that we’re loved, that we are good enough. Heavenly treasure is anything that forms you into the likeness of Jesus and frees your life from the tyranny of the temporary.

If you ever question what God cares about check out what Jesus did in the Gospel’s. He loved people, cared for the widows & orphans, fed people, and built up the kingdom of heaven on earth. He brought heaven down. This is the challenge in this passage. God never intended us to stress over the things of this world — in Luke 12:22, 25-26

Luke 12:22

NIV 22

Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.

Luke 12:25–26

NIV 25

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? Through the different stages of our lives we ebb

and flow through different stages of treasure — we start to care about different things in our lives. That is completely normal. You're not going to find a 50-year-old adult worrying about what the cafeteria is going to have for lunch and you're not going to find a 6-year-old worrying about paying for the mortgage. We can see that the Word of God is instructing us to not have as tight a hold on these things of the world. Because the tighter our grip the less in control we really are.

(SAND IN HANDS ILLUSTRATION)

Take sand for example. This sand is straight from the beaches of Bermuda — just kidding. This is from Home Depot. This sand represents all the things of our lives. The kids, our business, our image, home, the money we earn, the money we save, the vacation we have to organize, Thanksgiving we have to host, Christmas we have to attend, The in-laws we have to interact with even though I really don't want to, and then there's weird uncle Al who always seems to smell a little but never knows it.

The sand is all the problems, values, treasures of this world. The things we protect and want to keep close to our chest. But what happens when we want to take hold of it (Squeeze the sand—deliver slowly) and take control of it the problems end up seeping through our fingers — and we have lost control. Leaving us more stressed than when we started. What God is calling us to do in this moment, and I want all of you to follow. Put your hands out like this, palms facing up like you're holding something. This is a posture of surrender.

This is the posture that allows us to surrender to God the stresses of our lives, the treasures of this world. In this posture of surrender we can ask God to use these opportunities, these holidays, these interactions with people I may only see once a year, to use them as an opportunity to serve them like Jesus would. When we approach situations with a posture of surrender, we can hold more because we know that we are not pulling from our own strength but the strength of God. (Sand sits safely on top of palms) demonstrating that we can handle more when we are dependent on God's strength in these seasons of stress. That when we trust in God and in what he is offering us we don't feel the weight of everything on our shoulders. Open hands. Open heart. Open heaven.

This is why Paul says in Philippians 4:6-7

Philippians 4:6-7

NIV 6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. When we trust God in these moments when the things of this world are consuming us, we can see that all God wants to do is bless us. That through kingdom living — living out the instructions of God's word we can feel so free, we can know that the weight that was so heavy on us has been lifted. This doesn't mean that every day is going to be easy peasy. There will be hard days.

For those in the room that know me I can become what I like to call a "Stress ball." I am a ball of stress that in turn ends up stressing those out around me. Those that went on the Bahamas trip know this well. I can become very stressed in the airport. I'm the type that when

we get through TSA we must go right to the gate so that we don't miss our flight. (even if the layover is 8 hours). This has been something that I have been trying to work on. Markie and I recently flew to Austin TX where we met up with the rest of my family for my cousin's wedding. We were flying out of Philly on a direct flight to Austin. Markie's grandfather dropped us off at the airport 2 hours early, we walked through TSA, we walked to our gate sat down and Markie was able to go around and get some food. Even though my progression of events was the same going from TSA to the gate Markie on our way to the gate said, "You seem like you're not stressed at all" this was refreshing to hear. I understood that we were fine. That we didn't need to rush or hurry there, the plane wasn't going to leave without us. I was calm. It was also refreshing to hear that. My treasure was placed not in my control but in the control of God. I knew God had it all figured out.

Because when we misplace our treasure, we end up with the side effect of stress. The great thing about stress is it will always reveal what we trust. Stress always reveals what we trust. If your trust is in your grades, you're going to stress about it. If your trust is in your business, you're going to stress about it. If your trust is in yourself, you're going to stress about your performance.

I know there are plenty of things in this world that we can put our trust in. Because there are plenty of things that are asking for it. But let me just tell you this — God is a jealous God as described in Deuteronomy 4:24

Deuteronomy 4:24

NIV 24

For the Lord, your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. God can get jealous when we place our trust in other things. And the world offers so many things to place our trust in. Our jobs security, family, money. And again these things aren't bad but when they take the throne of our heart God can get jealous because that's where he belongs. God cares about your treasure because He ultimately wants to bless you! We see this over and over again in the Bible God continues to bless His people! Open hands. Open heart. Open heaven. deliver examples of opening our hands. Walk through open hands (surrender to God), open heart (attitude to glorify/serve this holiday), open heaven (bringing heaven down)

YOU MAY BE THE ONLY EXAMPLE OF WHAT HEAVEN LOOKS LIKE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD

You may be the only heaven people see. You may be the only Jesus people see. We were meant to serve the creator not serve the created. But so often we close our hands on the blessings of God. So often we jump to out our trust in the things of this world our behavior and Gods reaction when we take control Imagine a holiday season where you aren't ruled by urgency, fear, or expectations... imagine a table where the presence of Jesus is felt more than the pressure of performance... Imagine walking into a room not carrying weight, but carrying peace... That's what happens when your treasure is in heaven—not in control, not in approval, not in perfection. Some things to think about:

- Where have you misplaced your treasure?
- What's the one thing you've been gripping like sand?
- Where has stress exposed misplaced trust in your life?

Today, before the holidays arrive, God is inviting you to reorder your treasure... so He can reorder your peace.

CB: ask everyone to stand and open their hands. This is your chance to take your first step into surrender.

Let me pray

“Jesus, we’re opening our hands... the same way You opened Yours on the cross. We’re releasing what we were never meant to control. Replace our stress with Your peace. Replace our striving with Your strength. Replace our fear with Your presence.

This holiday season — reorder our treasure so You can reorder our hearts