

SERMON. DO YOU HAVE TREASURES?

By Ellen Johnson

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What are your treasures? What are the things that have some meaning to you? What things were gifts from someone special?

Recently I cleaned out things in our basement. We had plumbers replacing some leaky pipes connected to the boiler. Our house was built in 1915 and some of the pipes were original. I got rid of lots of things we didn't need - including some things my husband kept. Please don't tell him! We have a door that goes directly outside from our basement. For the first time our garbage can was full.

Then I started going through things upstairs. And our closet.

I discovered many things I used to think were treasures.

I found this gourd in a drawer upstairs. It must be at least 70 years old. My mother gave it to me. She used it to darn my father's work socks. Some women used a lightbulb.

She had showed me how to darn a hole - you weave a patch over the hole with darning cotton and a needle. Truth be told if Howard needed new socks to wear with his fatigues we just bought new ones. That were all black. I guess my mother thought I would darn them. But I saved this gourd - just in case.

I also have a dog tag my father wore in WWI. He was over in France, slogging through the muddy trenches filled with slime. When I hold it I can only imagine how frightened he must have been. This IS a treasure! At least to me.

I know of some women that have saved all the Christmas they have received for years. Boxes of them in their attic.

In the book of Luke, Chapter 2 you will find the story about Mary and Joseph and their having to travel to Bethlehem

to be registered in according with a decree from Emperor Augustus. You know the story.

Mary delivered her son Jesus

there. There are drawings of Mary sitting on the back of a donkey while traveling. It must have been MOST uncomfortable for her. We moved while I was pregnant for our kids. I had a VW Beetle to ride in with Paul and a Maverick with Elizabeth. What luxury!?

Ordinary People didn't have collections of treasures back then. Just necessary things for daily living.

People with riches had others to take of their treasures. Did they get joy from their collections? I think less is better than more at times

I worked with a woman who had lots of clothes - mostly needed to be dry cleaned.

She said she kept a list of which outfit she wore so she never wore the same outfit in a 2 week time. Whatever!!??

I used to try and remember what I wore to church so I wouldn't wear the same thing from week to week. I quickly figured out if I didn't remember nobody else would. I try to get my priorities straight!

Let's all try to remember why we are all here. To worship God and follow the ways of Jesus. Simple and to the point. AMEN