

Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV) **Lay Up Treasures in Heaven**

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Where is your treasure?

If you sit there right now and think about your life, where you allot your time, where you dedicate your energy, your money, and your effort, it will become apparent where you think your treasure is found.

When you investigate your own heart, you will know for certain the location of your treasure!

Our society tells us we should find our treasure, and it's here on earth. It's now, it's being present in the moment, enjoying this life that is way too short as our ashes remind us. Treasure is found in success, and self-promotion, in family and happiness, or singleness and happiness, just seeking happiness, in surrounding yourself with people who make you feel good. Treasure is found in picking the right career, or the right share on the stock market, or picking the right place to live in my forever home with my forever pet, or the picking right horse on the track, or the right sports team that continues to triumph. Or voting for the right political party and being on the right side of history. Treasure is found in tolerance, inclusivity, freedom, and standing up for others, or overturning the oppressor!

It looks like your treasure is in all these places, but all these things will disappear. They will be stolen or eaten, oxidise and deteriorate, they will be no more!

Our true treasure is somewhere else, our true treasure is **someone** else.

Your treasure is found on a cross, in a feed trough, walking on a lake, agonising in a garden, getting interrogated by religious and political leaders, willingly trapped into an unjust death, betrayed by his closest friends, deserted when he needed them most, broken, bloodied, dirty, disowned, whipped, beaten, spat upon, and left to die!

Your treasure is in your saviour, in his forgiveness won for you and freely given to you. Your treasure is his reconciliation between you and the creator of this universe, your treasure is God-made man taking on the sins of the world to relieve the world of our SIN.

Your treasure is in bread and wine, in water and word, in out-of-date practice that needs constant explanation, in dusty books with words that need a dictionary for them to be understood, in hymns and songs written in another era yet still sung, in liturgy and movement that becomes habit yet doesn't always make sense, that sometimes seems out of this world and at others times seems so dull we wish it could be more exciting.

Your treasure is in serving your neighbour (both the ones very close who live in your house and the ones far away) even though they don't deserve it, probably won't appreciate it, and certainly won't say thank you.

Your treasure is in going without because it reminds you of all that you have, and all that your treasure has done for you.

Your treasure is in hearing his words repeatedly, listening, learning, believing and trusting.

Your treasure is in heaven where he prays and pleads on your behalf. When you won't and when you can't and even when you do - pray. Your treasure is found in your quiet room, waiting to hear from you, or in your busy life, there, having already spoken, even given you the words to say so that you can and will call out to him.

Your treasure is your saviour – Jesus Christ, who is in heaven, but is right here, who calls you back again and again, and says I am your treasure, come and enjoy me, come and rest in me, come and be nourished by me.

Your treasure is the one whom God made to be sin who knew no sin so that in him you might become the righteousness of God.

This Lent, use this opportunity to align your heart, your treasure and your time, efforts, and money.

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.