

” Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Will Be Also.”

Matt. 6”21

These words were ringing in my ears recently to the point where I had to honestly ask myself, “Where is my treasure?” What is my priority when it comes to the things of God? I know I do the usual Christian things – read, pray, minister, fellowship, etc., etc. But to what end? What was the real purpose for all that I do, especially for all that I do in the Name of Jesus? What was the treasure that had my attention? Was it the treasure that had God’s attention or was it simply “good and right sounding, and therefore it must be of God?” Would God place eternal worth on my activities, or would they burn away because they were fleshly and had to do with treasures (even under the guise of good, purposeful activities) with earthly value? The Lord asked me to look at His church and its treasures, my life and its treasures; and then, *His* priorities and treasures. Do all of our activities and purposes agree with His? If not, of what value are they?

Usually when I am posed with these kinds of questions, I’m about to learn some incredible lessons; not just some “OK, God, I’ve got it” kinds of lessons. Usually, these are some straight-from-the-heart-of-God, “I’m going to change your life forever” kinds of lessons. From past experience, I had found it best to take this time seriously.

I began to look around. Where was the church, in general, putting its treasures? To the largest degree, what were its priorities? Where were the treasures being laid up? I looked around and saw activity after activity, but couldn’t really see what God was trying to teach me. I saw us preaching this, defining that, and exposing something else. We stood for this, rallied for that, or told others they needed to stand for something we did. We were outraged at this, imposed our opinion on that, and generally were supposed to all be against “those over there.” I became so confused, I had to go to the Father and ask Him to help me see what He was trying to teach me. He told me the answer was in Jesus. Into what did He put His heart? Where was His treasure?

The Lord showed me that it was always in one and only one place – people. All that Jesus did, all that His life accomplished, all the outpouring of His love, was for the best interests of people.

How simple! As the Lord directed me further, I realized that the whole theme of the Bible is to show us the heart of God and the treasure He finds in people. He was saying to me, “I believe it is worth centuries of time, and the life of My only Son, to invest in the treasures I have created. Now, where are your treasures, Jim?” Oh, boy! It never really hit me before. People!

Was I investing in people as God did? Was I loving them – *all* of them? Was I laying down my life for them, considering even the unlovable in my eyes of greater importance than myself? Did differences in doctrine, their stance on issues, how much sin they had in their lives, or how far they were from knowing God, or even their hatred for me make them my enemies; when God sees them and loves them as much as He loves me? Had I forgotten that even the worst enemies of the Gospel are no less a victim of the world and its ways than I was before God, in His grace and mercy, showed me Jesus? Was even the worst murderer worthy of my scorn, when God desires to show them His love through me? Had I been so involved in how bad everything was getting that I had forgotten my real purpose for being here? God showed me that while I was “doing good,” He was investing in people. He hadn’t forgotten or changed His priorities even though I had; and He was asking me to make my priorities, my treasures, the same as His.

Let me ask you some questions. Have you lost your joy in the Lord? Where are you investing your time? What are your priorities? Is your stance on a certain issue more important than the salvation of the person or persons “opposing” you? Do you weep for those who hate you and the One you represent on this earth? Are you praying for their salvation or trying to impose your standards on them, even though the spiritual cannot be understood by the carnal mind and the unregenerate spirit? Are you pleading for the salvation of the murderer and asking God to flood him with the same mercy you’ve been given, or are you focused primarily on exposing his sin or changing the laws? Are you depositing warfare prayers and petitions against the real enemy and words of mercy and grace on behalf of unbelievers in the heavenly treasury, or are you concentrating primarily on works? Do you honestly pray that none should be lost, and choose to make their salvation your deepest longing? Paul said that he was again as if in “birth pangs” until Christ was formed in others.

God desires that none should perish for they are His treasures, and that is where His heart is. We need to pray for one another that God would place His desires on our hearts for His will to be accomplished.

Beginning to understand the need for His grace, mercy and wisdom to do God’s work His way,

Jim Corbett