

Lent Reflection Week 1- Treasure (Intro and pattern- reading, reflection, meditation/exercise)

Reading Matthew 6.19-21:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Reflection- Where is your heart? Let me ask the age-old question, if there were to be, God forbid, a fire in your house what one item would you take out with you? Your phone? A photo Album, a special piece of jewellery? What we value most is often what we spend our time upon. Where our treasure is... Where the things we value most is where our heart is and where our heart is our focus is too. We value success then we devote ourselves to our work. We value our comfort then we devote ourselves to improving our homes. We value our creativity we devote ourselves to artistic pursuits.

The same goes for our relationships. The ones we value we devote our time too. Our family, our friends... God? I wonder how much devotion we give to that relationship.

This passage reminds us very simply that there is nothing permanent about our earthly lives, our material gains and achievements will not move into the Kingdom of Heaven with us. However, our love, our peace and our relationship with God will. These few verses are not just an entreaty to do good works, but also a call to reflect on our priorities and relationship with our creation. Our actions on earth, where we spread love and joy, where we work for equity and justice all build the Kingdom of God and store for us eternal treasure yes... But these works flow as a natural result of our relationship with God. If God is a part of our lives, then our lives will reflect that.

If we treat this relationship as if it is insignificant to us, perhaps as a distant relative or old colleague then its impact on us is limited. God will of course ALWAYS welcome our connection to him and embrace us when we do pray, worship, or come into his presence. As with the best of friend's time and space have no impact on the depth of this relationship. But still our heart won't be focused upon the things which are of God.

Conversely if we treat our relationship with God as a treasure. As one of our most prized and valued relationships, investing time in making it work, devoting ourselves to give this relationship space and time to grow... Well then it comes central to us and who we are. Our outward actions are likely to be in sync with the Kingdom, our lives will reflect that of Christ to others.

This season of Lent is a time of preparation and repentance... the perfect time to reevaluate our priorities and reinvest in those relationships we want to treasure. How can you make God the centre of our life? In what ways can you make space and time to nurture and invest in your relationship with God. I know its something I do well at for a time and then it is squeezed out other pressures. Let's make this lent a time of refocusing on where our real treasure and so our hearts and focus lies. Amen.

Time of reflection and meditation on this the me-