

Protecting Your Treasure

- *Matthew 6:19-21*

- **Fathers, what an honor to have you in our congregation today & we are thrilled that we can recognize such a group of courageous & godly men.**
 - As I look around this room, there are some godly men who I have looked up to for years & many of you have helped shape & mold my own life.
 - I am certainly indebted to many of you for the godly influence & example you have set before me, my generation & the generation that is before us today.
- **There are many different issues & topics I could challenge you with today on this Father's Day, but the subject that God has laid on my heart is the focus of your treasure this morning & more specifically, protecting your treasure.**
 - The word treasure is a unique word & it describes something that is rare or holds extreme value. In other words it cannot be easily replaced or duplicated. It is something special, one of a kind or rarely found.
 - Fort Knox, Kentucky hosts the United States Bullion Depository. Surrounded by thousands of soldiers with some heavy-duty hardware is a building where our nation's gold is stored. The construction of this building required 16,000 cubic feet of granite, 4,200 cubic yards of concrete, 750 tons of reinforcing steel, and 670 tons of structural steel. The vault door is 21-inches thick and made of the latest torch- and drill-resistant material. It weighs 20 tons and the vault casing was 25-inches thick. "Why all that fuss, you ask? Because inside the building are 368,250 gold bars. Each bar weighs 27.5 Lbs. That's 147.3 million ounces of gold which totals around 238.29 billion dollars.
 - Now we go to great measures to protect our earthly treasures, but do we protect the greatest treasures that we possess in the same manner?
- **As I began thinking about this subject & the vast possibilities of "treasures" that each of us may have in our lives, I began making a mental list of things that were important to me, that God has ordained me to protect & things that would make a lasting difference.**
- **As I began narrowing down my list based on these requirements, what I found was a rather short list of things that I truly "treasure".**
- **So this morning, I want us to open up the Word of God & let's dig into our lives this morning & determine what it is that we treasure & how we can protect it from the enemy.**
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **So as we open up the Word of God this morning & we read this very familiar verse, we see that our treasure is where our heart is.**
 - Dad, a simple question this morning, what is your heart focused on this morning?
 - Mom, of all the things that you have going on in your life today, what is your heart's desire?
 - Young person, of all the things that you are being influenced with today, what is it that is MOST important to you today?
- **As I evaluate my own life, honestly, there are 2 things that I treasure & I believe I ought to protect each of them with all my might.**

1. Treasure of Faith

- Folks, I can't express this enough, there is nothing more important than your relationship with God.

- We ought to cherish our relationship with God,
- We ought to be excited about our relationship with God,
- We should desire for our relationship with God to flourish & to grow,
- But we better be willing to protect our relationship with God as well.
- We are living in a time where men's character & their testimony is being dragged through the mud of sin simply b/c they are not vigilant in protecting what God has given to them.
 - Men, as sad as it is, there are others out there who want you to fall spiritually.
 - Ladies, there are people, coworkers, perhaps even some of your so-called "friends" who are waiting on you to fall.
 - Young people, there are some of your peers who truly want you to succeed & want you to do well in life; but there are others who are just waiting on you to slip up & fall.
 - More importantly, there is an enemy that has made it his sole mission to do everything possible to mislead you, to confuse you, to distract you from following after God & keeping your life pure & holy.
 - There is nothing our enemy the devil would like more than to destroy our saving faith.
 - He would love to put doubts in our minds, cloud our understanding, and lead us astray to a fake treasure, which has no value at all.
 - You place your faith & your trust in the promises of God's Word.
- Men, Fathers, we must be careful that we don't find ourselves so consumed with our jobs & providing for our families & other activities that we allow our own relationship with God to suffer. It is a treasure that we must hold in highest regards.
 - Mark 8:36 – "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"
- If you don't hear anything else this morning, hear this ... PROTECT YOUR TESTIMONY & YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!
 - i. Be sure of your salvation today. Know without a doubt that your sins have been forgiven & that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life.
 - ii. Don't "muddy" your life with the pleasures or the temptations of this world.
 1. II Corinthians 4:7 – "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."
 - iii. Surround your life with the Word of God & daily lean upon God for protection & guidance in your life & in your walk with Him.
 1. II Timothy 1:14 – "That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

2. Treasure of Family

- Aside from our relationship with God, our family is the most important treasure that we have, and we ought to seek to protect it from the snares of the enemy & lead them in the ways of God.
- We have an enemy that is out to steal, kill, & destroy our families.
 - Now most of the time when we think about the enemy attacking, we think about him attacking from the outside, and certainly that is possible & is often the case.
 - TV
 - Internet

- Society
- Friends
- But I will also tell you that often times he seeks to tear down the family from within. This too is something we need to guard against & protect our families from.
 - If he can break a godly family apart, he has accomplished a major victory.
 - But unfortunately, it doesn't take divorce to break a family apart.
 - Steal your faithfulness.
 - Stir up strife & unresolved issues in the home.
 - Allow bitterness & anger to invade the home.
 - And if these type things are taking place in your home today, your home is under attack & you need to be delivered from the enemy.
- It takes hard work to keep your family godly & holy & spiritual doesn't it? As a matter of fact, if your family loves God this morning & they are trying to serve Him, that didn't just happen by accident. That took a lot of work & preparation, but is also demanded a lot of protection.
 - There's nothing the enemy would like more than to tear your family apart.
- Dad's, I hope & trust that you are willing to protect your families physically b/c that is important, but even more important is to protect them spiritually.
 - I'm not saying you got to have the perfect family, but do all that you can to keep it in tact & away from the enemy's attacks.
- Did you know that as the spiritual leader in the home, Dad's your children are following in your footsteps?
 - Now that is an awesome & a sobering thought at the same time.
 - It is neat to think that our children are looking to us for direction & an example as to how they should live their life.
 - But as they are watching you, as they are following your footsteps, let me ask you this ... where are you leading them?
 - Are we leading them towards success?
 - Are we leading them towards popularity?
 - Are we leading them towards athletics?
 - Or are we leading them towards Christ?
 - You say, "Well I am trying to lead them right, I hope I am leading them right. How can I know if I am leading them in the right direction?" Answer → Whose footsteps are you following after? It should be Jesus Christ.
- Part of protecting a treasure is making sure it is in a secure place, in a safe place. I can think of no other safer place than following after Jesus.
- You say, "But Pastor, the enemy has already attacked my home."
 - Perhaps this morning, for some of you the enemy has been brutal & he has destroyed your marriage.
 - Maybe you are here & there is so much conflict in the home right now.
 - Maybe death has come to your home & it has left a void in your family.
 - Or perhaps your mate has lost his/her faithfulness to God & serving Him.
- "Pastor, what am I suppose to do, it seems as though he has already defeated my family."

- You being here this morning tells me he has not completely won yet. There is still hope. There is still enough left to fight for. Don't you allow him to take down what's left. You need to be willing to fight even for the fragments of your family that are left b/c God can use even something that is broken & seemingly destroyed if we will place it in His hands.
- If divorce has come ... you fight for what's left. Those children are important, they are a treasure, they still need someone to guide & direct their lives.
- If death has come, you mourn as you should, but then you fight for what's left.
- What I'm saying is, none of us have the perfect life, we all have certain disappointments & tragedies that we have to go through, but there are still some things worth fighting for.
 - Your relationship with God
 - Your family
- Don't you allow the enemy to come in & steal your treasure, you must fight for it. As a child of God, you have the privilege of calling upon your Heavenly Father to help you protect & repair what the enemy has attempted to tear down.
 - He can certainly attack us, we can allow him to discourage us, and through his actions we may even suffer at times, but I will remind you that there is NOTHING, I said NOTHING that can separate us from the love of God.
 - Romans 8:35-39 – “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- “But Pastor, how in the world can I possibly fight against the enemy? How can I protect my family from the enemy?” Or maybe you are here & you say, “The enemy has already come, how can I pick up the pieces & move on?”

1. Refuse To Be Blinded By Circumstances

- a. When we only believe in God through circumstances, our circumstances blind us as to Who God really is.
- b. Each of us must come to the same conclusion of the man with the demon-possessed boy, “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.”

2. No Excuses

- a. Don't make any excuses and don't take any excuses when it comes to sin.
- b. Satan entices us to respond to our emotions - especially fear, anger & hatred.
- c. Choose instead to respond with faith.

3. Join The Battle

- a. As Christians, we are to take the devil seriously, but we are never to be overwhelmed by Him or give in to his temptations.
- b. Instead we are to face him, resist him and use our faith to overcome Him.
- c. But, we can only do this if we remain close to Christ & daily seek wisdom, courage, and direction and choose to exercise our faith in Him.

- **There are certainly some other things that we treasure in this life; one of those is the church. But the beauty of the church is, if we will protect our relationship with God & our families, the church will continue to flourish.**
- **Maybe this morning, some of you have allowed your relationship with God to be exposed & you have not been surrendered to God like you should.**
 - You have allowed things to come b/w you & god.
 - You have put other things of less importance before Him.
 - And perhaps the enemy is really attacking you this morning.
 - Why don't you come & surrender completely to God today & claim His power in conquering the enemy.
- **There are some marriages that are struggling this morning.**
 - I may not know about it, but the enemy is attacking you & it seems like he is winning. You protect your family! You fight for your marriage!
- **Perhaps there are some families who have just been devastated by issues in the home.**
 - Bitterness
 - Anger
 - Maybe you haven't talked to some of your brothers or sisters or parents in years b/c of bitterness & resentment. That needs to be confessed today.
- **We need to take all measures this morning to protect our treasures, to protect our relationship with God & our families. Will you come to God today?**