

**Devotion 15**  
**Treasure**

**Sunday, Week 3:**

(Jesus said) *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.* (Matthew 6:19-21)

Back in the days of a good economy there were people in my church whose business was flourishing. As they became more and more wealthy, they gradually drifted farther and farther away from God's people, no matter how we tried to encourage them. Finally, they said, "Don't talk to us anymore. The church is just after our money." *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Rondi Barber, the all-pro running back on the New York Giants, declared last year that he was retiring from professional football, even though he is at the top of his game and is leaving 10-20 million dollars "on the table." He has said there are other things he wants to pursue in life. *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

The words from a Ray Boltz song titled, "Thank You," tell the story of a person who dreams that he goes to heaven and a friend of his is there with him. As they are standing there a young man comes up to his friend and says, "You taught my Sunday school when I was only eight and through that Jesus came into my heart." The song continues in this vein with one person after another coming up to the friend and thanking him for his actions, for the money he gave to support a missionary, for all the ways—largely unnoticed when he was alive—he shared Christ. Finally, he looks up, and as people are approaching him "as far as the eye could see," Jesus puts His arm around him and says, "My child, look around you, great is your reward."

What is it that you treasure in life? What are those things that are most important, those things that you live for? Jesus knows that what we treasure will determine where our heart is. And He wants our heart! For our sake! This is why he advises us to store up treasures in heaven. Because as we do this—as we more and more focus our time, abilities, and money on the work of the kingdom of God, this—and the people for whom Christ died—become more and more important in our lives, to our great good!

In our ministry expansion stewardship process, our vision is that our loving God by His Spirit through His Word would lead each of us to joyfully, willingly, proportionally, and sacrificially step out in faith in our lives of stewardship...all **FOR A FULLER HEAVEN!** One way He would do this is to have us examine what we truly treasure and make adjustments through repentance and faith as need be. He does this not because He needs what we have, but rather, *where our treasure is, there will our heart be also.* Our loving God is calling each of us to ask ourselves, "Where is my treasure!"

Oh, one more thing. Because Christ treasured us, it led Him to the action of the cross. Once again, He is our life . . . and our example!

**Prayer:** Dearest Jesus, send me the Holy Spirit in extra measure, that my heart might be right, treasuring only that which is true treasure, and that my actions reflect my heart.  
Amen.