

Have you ever bought anything and were quickly disappointed with it? Maybe you expected better quality, or found out there was a newer model. It seems like this has happened to all of us. On the same day that we put in new vinyl kitchen flooring, one of my kids dropped a small metal box on it, which left a small tear in the floor. Last week, I purchased two bowls, and on the way home, I stopped quickly and one got broke. Both of these experiences are good reminders that they are only things. They have no eternal value.

Schindler's List is a movie based on the true story of Oskar Schindler who goes to Nazi-occupied Poland looking for economic prosperity. As a business man, he was able to buy work for Jewish men and women who were destined to go to concentration camps. He ends up rescuing more than 1,100 Jews. For me, one of the most touching parts of the movie is when Oskar is forced to leave Poland, and he notices a ring he is wearing. He grieves – openly sobbing – that he could have sold that ring to save one more person's life! For him, saving over one thousand people wasn't enough when he could have saved even one more!

There is a ministry around the Toledo area called The Daughter Project (www.thedaughterproject.org). It is a group of Christ-followers that are building a home for young women that have been rescued from sex slavery. Did you know that Toledo is ranked fourth in the nation for top cities of human sex trafficking? A young woman, Amy Seiffert (www.amyseiffert.com), decided to wear the same dress every day for six months in order to raise money and awareness for The Daughter Project. She has already raised over \$1000 . . . simply by wearing the same dress.

Jesus said, "Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or – worse! – stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being . . . You can't worship God and Money both . . . If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body . . . If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers – most of which are never even seen – don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." (Matthew 6:19-34, THE MESSAGE)

Friends, where is our treasure?

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) Where is God asking you to “spend” to love Him and love others? Is He asking you to spend more money? Is He asking you to spend more time?

In what ways do I honor God and others with how I spend my time and money? In what ways do I dishonor God and others with how I spend my time and money?

In Amy’s blog, she quoted her husband: “It’s not what should I give away...it’s actually asking: what can I keep?” Have you ever thought of giving that way?

Based on outward appearances, name some things that others would think I treasure.

Recently on KLove, they shared the idea of putting a red “Sharpie” dot on your hand to remind you to pray for Japan. The DJs shared that they struggle with saying they’d pray for someone/something, and then not following through. Perhaps we need to put a “Sharpie” reminder (a cross, initials, etc.) on our hand to remind us to spend time praying for someone.

THE MESSAGE used the word “steep” in the Matthew translation above. Think of how you might “steep” a teabag when you’re making tea. You soak the leaves in the water, until the water soaks up the flavor, the color, and the smell of the leaves. We are supposed to “steep” ourselves in God and His Word, so that others can see God through us. Try writing out this month’s memory verse on notecards and place them around the house or take them in the car. Have your kids write out their own set. Let God’s Words steep into your heart and through your life.

Additional Verses: *Matthew 6:19-34, Mark 12:41-44, Proverbs 3:9, 1 Samuel 16:7, 2 Cor. 8 & 9*

This month’s memory verse: *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21*

REMINDERS:

4.10 – The Gathering at SHU at 6pm! *In God we trust? Faith & Finances.* This week we welcome a great friend of 1MOSAIC and close mentor to Dan, Kevin Crawford from Brookside church in BG! Kevin will be unpacking part two of our finance series that will be both challenging and empowering. You will not want to miss him, plus all the 3rd:culture info!

4.17 – 3rd:culture Night! We will be serving both at the Salvation Army & continuing with our Habitat House! Listen on Sunday nights & watch the web for all the final details. Child care provided @ SHU.

4.24 – EASTER SUNDAY at SHU at 6pm! *RESURRECTION LIVING!* When Jesus died on the cross He paid the price for our sins, that we might be set free. When Jesus defeated death and the tomb was empty, He opened the door for a new way of living! Join us Easter Sunday as Dan unfolds the power and beauty of ‘Resurrection Living’. This will begin a four week journey looking at our ‘state of living’. Invite your neighbors!