

March 10, 2022

What Do You Treasure?

[Matthew 6:19-21](#)

¹⁹ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Lent is a poignant time in the church calendar. We are called to reflect daily and intently on our finite nature. It is a time for repentance and reflection on our frailty.

During Lent, we are called to the disciplines of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Our ability, and often inability, to live out these disciplines helps us understand what we truly value.

At the beginning of Lent, we eagerly set goals for ourselves, and then progressively they become harder and harder to uphold. It becomes increasingly easier to rationalize breaking our fast or giving less. Sometimes, we even come up with spiritual justifications for doing so.

Forty days is a relatively short period of time, and yet, it seems increasingly long when we are in the midst of Lent. It seems this way because, without realizing it, we have placed more value on earthly treasures than we would like to admit. We find even trivial enjoyments difficult to give up after a few days. Even though we know that the things of this world provide a limited amount of pleasure, we talk ourselves into settling for the instant gratification they provide, but this is the beauty of Lent that humbles us.

Lent should feel like dying to self. Lent helps to reveal the inner workings of our heart so that we can repent and draw close to Christ. It is a time when we learn what earthly treasures impede us from “storing up” heavenly ones.

We are called to follow Christ, who came and suffered and gave all for us, yet we struggle with temporary discomfort and sacrifice. The season of Lent helps us to reflect on this, and it softens our hardened hearts until, in humility, we draw closer to Christ.

Thankfully, because of Christ and His work on the cross, there is hope and forgiveness for us. Christ walks with us and before us and sanctifies us, and as a result, we are more and more able to set aside earthly things for the true treasure Christ offers and that which awaits in Heaven.

***Prayer:** Heavenly Father, during this season of Lent, help us to realize the times when we fail to set aside earthly things. Help us to come closer to You and recognize that our true treasure is a relationship with You. Knowing You provides far greater and lasting joy than any earthly possession. Amen.*

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