

Camp Copass Boys Camp 2007 – Bible Study #2

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Theme: Treasure Hunter

"Where Is Your Treasure"

Memory Verse: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Bible Study Text: Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Object: To help boys understand that by doing good deeds for others they can store up treasure in heaven.

Jeremy was feeling really great as he got ready for school. His mom had bought him the coolest pair of expensive jeans. They were the latest thing. All the guys were wearing them and he had pleaded with his mother for weeks to buy him a pair. She had complained that they were way too expensive, but Jeremy kept asking and explaining that he was the only kid in his whole room that didn't have this special kind of jeans. Finally his mom gave in and today he would get to wear them. Not only that, she had given him a whole dollar, four quarters, to buy a special treat after school. He was really happy.

At lunchtime Jeremy and some of the guys got to rough housing and wrestling on the schoolyard. Jeremy had a thought: "I shouldn't be doing this in my new jeans." But they were having so much fun!

Suddenly Jeremy stumbled and fell on his knees. It hurt really badly, but even worse--when he looked at his knees, to his horror he saw that his jeans were torn where his knee had scraped the ground. His new jeans! There was a huge rip across the knee. Jeremy's heart sank. What would his mother say now? Just then the bell rang. As Jeremy walked sadly into the school he felt in his pocket for the coins his mother had given him. Something was wrong! He could feel only two. There should be four. Oh no! Not only had he torn his jeans he had lost fifty cents in the scuffling. There was no time to go back and look for it. Jeremy thought this just might be the worst day of his life!

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In our Bible text for today Jesus tells us not to set our hearts on earthly treasure, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. In the world of Jesus' day people counted their wealth mostly in clothing, crops or coins. Moths could eat holes in their clothes. Mice and rats could eat their grain and thieves could steal their coins. Jesus said we should put our treasure where it cannot be lost--in heaven. He was not saying that it was wrong to have money or clothes or to save money. He was saying it is the importance we give to these things that can be wrong.

What did Jesus mean when He said it is better to put your treasure in heaven?

1. The kind of treasure we can store in heaven.

The kind of things we can store up for ourselves in heaven are the things that last forever. They can be things like doing good deeds to help others, giving our tithes and offerings to the Lord, praying for others, or telling people about Jesus. These deeds of kindness and love are stored up in heaven because Jesus remembers everything we do and will reward us when we get to heaven.

The Apostle Paul said a similar thing in 1 Timothy 6:17-19. He said rich people should not put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but they should put their hope in God who gives us everything. And they should be rich in good deeds, not just money. "In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age..."

2. The reason we need to put our treasure in heaven.

Jesus gave us this wise teaching about our real treasure: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." He means that if you set your heart on things that you possess now, you will be disappointed because they will break, wear out, or possibly be stolen. But if you do the things that Jesus did while on earth--helping others, loving Him and serving Him--you will find that your heart is blessed because you will be thinking about things that last forever. You will not worry or be afraid or be too concerned about earthly possessions. Your heart will truly be in heaven, and your Heavenly Father will take care of your needs down here.

Make sure your treasure is stored in a place where it will last for all eternity.

For Discussion:

1. Have you ever had an experience like Jeremy? What did you do about it?
2. What are the things you treasure most on earth? Will any of these things last forever?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"?
4. How can you use money or the things you have now to store up treasure for yourself in heaven?