

“WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS”

KEY SCRIPTURES: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7/

MATTHEW 6:20-21/MATTHEW 13:44/MATTHEW 12:35



ONE MAN’S JUNK; IS ANOTHER MAN’S TREASURE.....

THE IDEA THAT VALUE IS SUBJECT TO THE INDIVIDUAL IS WHAT WE SEE IN PEOPLE EVERYDAY. WE LIVE WITH ETHICS AND MORAL STANDARDS THAT ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT.

- *SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE IN SAVING AND INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE. OTHERS SPEND EVERY DIME THEY GET AND DON'T EVEN PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.*
- *SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE IN A MODEST LIVING. OTHERS BELIEVE IN FANCY CLOTHES, FANCY CARS, FANCY CUSINE. AND A FANCY HOME.*
- *SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE IN LEAVING AN INHERITANCE. OTHERS BELIEVE LIVING FOR THE MOMENT.*
- *SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE IN JESUS AND GOING TO CHURCH AND WORSHIPING GOD AND INVESTING INTO THE KINGDOM AND THERE IS AN ETERNITY THAT IS INEVITABLE FOR ALL. OTHERS BELIEVE IT IS A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME AND THEY TAKE LIFE AS IT COMES.*

UNDERSTANDING AND LIVING WITH EXPECTATION OF ETERNITY GIVES US OUR VALUE SYSTEM. OUR VALUES DETERMINE WHAT WE TREASURE. IT IS HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS. IT IS HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER IN AGREEMENT WITH THOSE AROUND US. IT IS HOW WE MANAGE OUR EMOTIONS AND HOW WE GOVERN OUR TIME. I WATCH FOOTBALL FOR 6 HOURS BUT I STRUGGLE TO SIT IN SPIRITUAL ENVIROMENTS FOR MORE THAN 30 MINUTES. PEOPLE CAN BENG ON A TELEVISION MARATHON BUT THEY WILL NOT WATCH ONE SECOND OF THE LOCAL NEWS.

GOD HAS A TREASURE WITHIN US THAT IS NO JUNK.

2 CORITHIANS 4:7

BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS, THAT THE EXCELLENCE OF THE POWER MAY BE OF GOD AND NOT OF US.

A. THIS TREASURE: THE TREASURE IS THE GREATNESS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, AND THE GLORY OF GOD MADE EVIDENT THROUGH THAT GOSPEL. IT IS THE VERY LIGHT OF GOD

AND THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD, REFLECTED IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST. THIS IS THE GREATEST **TREASURE** IN ALL CREATION!

B. WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS: WHEN PAUL CONSIDERS US AS **EARTHEN VESSELS**, HE ISN'T DISPARAGING THE BODY OR CONSIDERING IT MERELY A RECEPTACLE FOR THE SOUL. INSTEAD, PAUL SIMPLY COMPARES THE "VALUE" OF GOD'S LIGHT AND GLORY AND THE "VALUE" OF WHAT HE CHOSE TO PUT HIS LIGHT AND GLORY INTO. WHEN YOU COMPARE THE TWO, IT ISN'T HARD TO BE AMAZED THAT GOD HAS PUT SUCH A GREAT **TREASURE** INTO CLAY POTS.

I. WHO IS WORTHY TO BE A "CONTAINER" FOR GOD'S LIGHT AND GLORY? THE SMARTEST PERSON ISN'T SMART ENOUGH, THE PUREST PERSON ISN'T PURE ENOUGH, THE MOST SPIRITUAL PERSON ISN'T SPIRITUAL ENOUGH, AND THE MOST TALENTED PERSON ISN'T TALENTED ENOUGH. WE ARE ALL JUST CLAY POTS HOLDING AN UNSPEAKABLY GREAT TREASURE.

II. **EARTHEN VESSELS:** EARTHENWARE VESSELS WERE COMMON IN EVERY HOME IN THE ANCIENT WORLD. THEY WERE NOT VERY DURABLE (COMPARED TO METAL), AND THEY WERE USELESS IF BROKEN (GLASS COULD BE MELTED DOWN AGAIN). "THEY WERE THUS CHEAP AND OF LITTLE INTRINSIC VALUE." (KRUSE) GOD CHOSE TO PUT HIS LIGHT AND GLORY IN THE EVERYDAY DISHES, NOT IN THE FINE CHINA.

III. WE ALMOST ALWAYS ARE DRAWN TO THE THING THAT HAS THE BEST PACKAGING, BUT THE BEST GIFTS OFTEN HAVE THE MOST UNLIKELY PACKAGING. GOD DID NOT SEE A NEED TO "PACKAGE" JESUS WHEN HE CAME AS A MAN TO THIS EARTH. JESUS WAS NOT EMBARRASSED TO LIVE AS AN **EARTHEN VESSEL**. GOD IS NOT EMBARRASSED TO USE CLAY POTS LIKE US.

C. THAT THE EXCELLENCE OF THE POWER MAY BE OF GOD AND NOT OF US: WHY DOES GOD PUT SUCH A GREAT TREASURE

IN SUCH WEAK VESSELS? SO THAT THE GREATNESS **OF THE POWER MAY BE OF GOD AND NOT OF US**. SO THAT IT WOULD BE EVIDENT TO ANYONE WHO HAD EYES TO SEE THAT THE WORK WAS BEING DONE BY THE POWER OF GOD, NOT THE POWER OF THE VESSEL.

I. WHY DID GOD CHOOSE RISKY, EARTHEN VESSELS INSTEAD OF SAFE, HEAVENLY ONES? BECAUSE “PERFECT” VESSELS ARE SAFE BUT BRING GLORY TO THEMSELVES. **EARTHEN VESSELS** ARE RISKY BUT CAN BRING PROFOUND GLORY TO GOD.

II. IN THE STORY OF GIDEON, IT WAS THE BREAKING OF VESSELS THAT MADE THE LIGHT SHINE FORTH AND BRING VICTORY TO GOD’S PEOPLE ([JUDGES 7:20](#)). IN THE REST OF THE CHAPTER, PAUL WILL SHOW HOW GOD “BREAKS” HIS CLAY POTS SO THAT **THE EXCELLENCE OF THE POWER MAY BE OF GOD AND NOT OF US**.