

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - Day 7 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am truly sorry for the moments yesterday where I missed the mark, where I did not do what you asked me to do. I ask your forgiveness and that you might give me the strength to better follow you today. May your mercies be new today, and may I give you the glory you rightly deserve.

Read Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

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

Answer the following questions:

At the 9:00 am service, we sing a song called “Graves into Gardens” by Elevation Worship. It is a great modern-day song of praise for God’s power and promises. It has the following lyrics: (you can listen to it on the HPC Spotify link on the church webpage)

***“I searched the world - But it couldn’t fill me - Man’s empty praise - And treasures that fade are never enough.
Then You came along - and put me back together - And every desire –
is now satisfied here in Your love.”***

That sounds a whole lot like the passage from Matthew’s Gospel. Both point to the reality that the treasures of this earth are temporary. They fade. They rust. They are stolen. They are eaten and destroyed. They do not last.

1. Where do you place the things of value in your life?

Don’t mistake what is being said here in Matthew’s Gospel. Things are not the issue. It is fine to have things of value in your life. The issue arises when we begin to place more value on those things than we do on God. When we focus more on that which is temporary, rather than that which is eternal, we have lost focus.

2. What does Matthew say about our heart and our treasure?
3. Where is your heart today? What has the greatest place of importance in your life? Can others see that clearly? How is it displayed in your life?

Close in Prayer

Almighty God, in those times when we place more value on creation than on the Creator, forgive us. In those moments when we place a higher value on the things we hold dear than we place on the one who has been holding us since the creation of time, forgive us. Help us place you as the centerpiece of our lives and model the value you have in our lives today and always. Amen.