

How to Treasure Jesus

Luke, Pt. 21

Luke 6:43-45

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I. INTRODUCTION

a. How do you spot a Christian?

- i. The Bible tells us when we surrender our lives to Jesus, He begins a process of transformation inside of us.
 - What does that transformation look like?
 - What evidence is there of that transformation?
 - What fruit does Jesus say His followers will produce?

b. Over the last several weeks, we have been studying Luke's recording of the Sermon on the Mount in Luke 6.

- i. And Luke gives us, from the sermon on the mount, five teachings from Jesus about the kinds of fruit that His followers will produce.
 - So, the first fruit we talked about was the LONG GAME...
 - MERCIFUL
 - SELF-AWARENESS
- ii. And every week, as we have been studying these teachings from Jesus, we have also been asking the question - HOW CAN WE BEGIN TO SEE MORE OF THIS FRUIT IN MY LIFE?
 - And you might have noticed that the answer to that question seems to be the same every single week, doesn't it?



- iii. **If I want to be play the long game and not look to the things of this world to fill up my soul but rather look to the Kingdom of God...**
- I need to become more and more aware of God's goodness to me!
 1. That He wants all the desires of my heart to be fulfilled.
 2. And in his mercy and grace, He has rescued me from this world and has secured me forever.
 3. He's good to me.
- iv. **If I want to be a merciful person...**
- I need to become more and more aware of God's goodness to me and the mercy that He has shown me...even though I didn't deserve it!
- v. **If I want to be a more self-aware person who doesn't judge and condemn others...**
- I need to become more and more aware of God's goodness to me. That even though He knows me with perfect clarity...all of the good and all of the bad...He doesn't condemn me but He has saved me!
- vi. **With every single one of these first three fruits...we produce them more...the more we are aware of and rest in God's goodness towards us.**
- Fruit does not grow in the soil of keeping a law.
 - Fruit does not grow in the soil of trying to prove yourself.
 - Fruit does not grow in the soil of guilt and shame.



- Fruit does not grow in the soil of picking yourself up by your bootstraps and trying to force it.
- Fruit can only grow in the soil of the safety and security of the mercy and grace of God.

II. THE TREASURY OF THE HEART

i. And that is actually the fourth fruit that we are going to talk about this morning.

- The fruit of resting in the goodness and grace of God.
 1. The fruit of treasuring Jesus.
- And what we are going to learn this morning is that, we will not produce any of these fruits that Jesus teaches us about, if we do not treasure Jesus in our heart.
 1. Luke 6:43-45 - *"⁴³ For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."*

ii. So, Jesus speaks of treasure Inside of our heart, here.

- The Greek here is the word THESAUROS.
 1. Which means treasury or storehouse.



2. So, the English word Thesaurus comes from this word...so a thesaurus is a storehouse or a treasury of English words and synonyms.
- So, when Jesus speaks of the treasury of our heart, he is speaking of the core motivations and desires that drive our behavior.
 1. The DNA of an apple tree causes the tree to produce the fruit of apples.
 2. Well the treasury of our heart is kind of like the DNA of our fruit and behavior.
 3. Whatever is inside that storehouse is going to determine the fruit that we produce and our behavior.
 - But when I look at an Apple Tree, I don't examine its DNA to determine that it is an Apple Tree.
 1. I identify it by the fruit...just like Jesus says.
- iii. **And so, one of the questions that we might have of our text this morning is: How do I know what is in the treasury of my heart?**
- And the probing question that Jesus asks of us is...
 1. Do you seek after the things of this world to fill the void in your heart or do you seek the Kingdom of God?
 2. Are you merciful?
 3. Are you self-aware?
 - Because the fruit that we produce displays what is in the treasury of our heart.



b. And this is where we might get off track...

- i. Every single one of us as followers of Jesus, bears fruit that is evidence that we do treasure Jesus in our heart.
- ii. And every single one of us has bad fruit hanging on us that is evidence that there are other things in the treasury of our heart.
 - And in our desire to change and bear good fruit, we can often get the growth process backwards.
 1. See, I identify an Apple Tree by its fruit not by examining its DNA.
 2. But I cannot change an Apple Tree into a Pear tree by attaching pears to it.
 3. The process is backwards.
 4. You would literally have to change the DNA of the tree.
 - And in the same way, we cannot begin to bear good fruit in our life by gritting our teeth and doing our best to force ourselves to do things like show mercy or have a different attitude towards someone that we have often judged and condemned in our heart.
 1. No, there must be a transformation of the DNA in our heart that brings forth this fruit.
 2. What we treasure in our heart has to change first.



- iii. And that's the question that I want to answer for us for the remainder of our time.
 - What does it mean to treasure Jesus In my heart?
 - How do I see more transformation on the Inside so there is a transformation on the outside?
 - Because the more I treasure Jesus, the more my life will resemble His life, and I will bear good fruit.

III. HOW TO TREASURE JESUS

a. What do you think It means to treasure something In your heart?

- i. If your heart is a storehouse of all kinds of desires and motivations.
 - To treasure something is for something to have control and influence over all of those desires and motivations, right?

b. So, I was thinking about this...about how we can identify the things we treasure most In our heart.

- i. And here is what I think...I think the things that we treasure the most In our heart are the things or people that we literally cannot fathom losing or living life without.
 - So, easy example for me. I treasure my family...my wife and kids.
 1. I cannot fathom life without them.
 2. To even think about that is depressing and I couldn't even picture a life without them.



- And, here's the thing about what we treasure....they are so Important to us and so much a part of us...that they become Intertwined with everything In our life.
 1. I organize my entire life around my family...because I treasure them.
 2. They Impact how I spend my time.
 3. They Impact how I spend my money.
 4. They Impact how I plan my future.
 5. They Impact the decisions that I make every single day.
 6. And they also get the vast majority of my time...I spend more time with my family than anyone else.
 - Because I treasure them In my heart Internally, they Impact the way I live externally.
- ii. It's like what Jesus says In Matthew 13:44
- *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."*
 1. How does Jesus describe the behavior...or you could say the fruit...of the man who found the treasure?
 2. He sold his possessions and purchased the field with the treasure.
 3. Because what you treasure Internally Impacts the way you live externally.
 - And that Is fruit. **Fruit Is the external evidence of what you treasure In your heart.**
 1. Repeat.
 2. What you treasure Is the DNA.
 3. And from that comes fruit consistent with that DNA.



c. So, what If the thing that you treasured the most out of everything In your life was...

i. Your wealth??

- You cannot imagine a life without an abundance of money and the lifestyle it affords....
- And the way we know if this is something that we treasure is that it becomes intertwined with everything else in my life.
 1. It impacts how I spend my time. I devote the majority of my time and thought and dreams to expanding this wealth.
 2. It impacts my level of generosity.
 3. It might impact how I judge others and who I choose to spend time with.
 4. It might impact my willingness to fall in line with the will of God in my life.
- See, because the thing that I treasure is the DNA of my heart and the way it impacts the way I live is the fruit.

ii. Work??

- You cannot imagine life without being who you are in your job.
- Again, you know it's something you treasure if it becomes intertwined with everything else in your life.
 1. It becomes the thing that gets most of your time, attention, and mental space.
 2. It becomes the thing you escape to.
 3. It becomes the primary rubric through which you decide how you're going to invest your time and attention in life.
- The fruit of the treasure in your heart.



iii. Approval of others??

- We cannot fathom a life where we might be rejected.
 1. And so, seeking the approval of others becomes the quest of our life and it dominates everything in our life.
 2. We spend the majority of our mental and emotional energy worrying over what people think of us.
 3. It takes us a while to get dressed because the filter of what people might think of what I'm wearing is hard to get passed.
 4. Or we replay conversations in our head over and over assuming the worst about ourselves.
 5. We can't sleep at night because we're reviewing the personal interactions we had the day before or we're planning for the ones in the day ahead.
 6. We spend time, money, and energy crafting social media images designed to get the affirmation of likes.
- All of that is fruit of the treasure in your heart.

d. And here is what Jesus is saying...He wants to be what you treasure the most in your heart.

- Not that you can't treasure other things, but he wants to be what you treasure the most.
 - i. And the fruit that comes from treasuring Jesus in your heart is not just some of these fruits we've been talking about over the last several weeks...like mercy and self-awareness.



- ii. **But teaches us of all kinds of fruits from treasuring Him above all...**
- Like the fruit of security that no amount of poverty, no tragedy, or no other person can threaten or steal.
 - The fruit of having a place to cast our anxieties.
 - The fruit of not needing to hide or cover up anything because we are fully known and fully loved at the same time.
 - The fruit joy that is not impacted by our circumstances.
 - The fruit of the patience, kindness, love that Christ has shown us first.
 - The fruit of having a heavenly purpose and kingdom assignment from the God of the universe that you can devote your whole life to.
- iii. **Your heart, your body, your mind, your emotions...were all designed by God to thrive in bearing fruit that comes from a storehouse filled with God...because you are an image bearer of God.**
- And if you want to taste true fulfillment, joy, and peace...then we must treasure Jesus above anything and everything this world has to offer.

e. And so, the question you might have is how. How do I begin to treasure Jesus above everything else?

- i. Well, it's the same answer as to how we began to treasure everything else that we treasure in our heart.



- How did we begin to treasure things like our family, our jobs, our money, or whatever else?
 - We invested time with them.
- ii. **You cannot treasure Jesus in your heart if you don't invest a significant amount of time to be with Him.**
- Reading His Word.
 - Pouring your heart out to Him.
 - Spending time with your brothers and sisters in Christ talking about Jesus.
 - Reflecting on His grace and goodness to you.
- iii. **One of the fruits of everything that we treasure is that we give that thing time.**
- And so next week, as we talk about the final fruit in Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount, we're going to be talking more of what it means to give Jesus time in our life and the fruit that comes from that.
- iv. **But for the week ahead, my encouragement to you is to do an audit of your time.**
- What gets most of your time and attention?
 - And what does that say about what you treasure in your heart?
 - How much time does Jesus get?
 - If you can come back next week with an idea of the answers to those questions, we'll really be in a place to understand what we can do to begin to treasure Jesus in our heart above everything else.

IV. PRAY

