

Of Hearts and Treasures (Part 2)

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 12:32-34



Big Idea

When we release our earthly treasures in love for Christ and others we are truly enlarging our capacity for future joy in God. And, in so doing, we are storing up our treasure in heaven.

(3) The Capacity

Proposition #1: There Will Be Reward Given in Heaven—It is a most critical point. You will not be able to sustain a life of abandon to the kingdom, of generosity to the poor and lowly, of love for neighbor and enemy alike, if you do not see this reward as a certain and impending reality. If you have no power in your Christianity, if you have little love for the poor and broken, the orphan and the widow, if you find your fingers wrapped tightly around your stuff, if you are overly concerned for your own comfort, security, reputation, and so forth, it is likely that you are not looking to the heavenly reward, but instead have all but forgotten about it.

Proposition #2: This Reward Will Vary in Degree—All who are in Christ will be rewarded on the day of judgment, but not all will be rewarded in quite the same way or to quite same degree. This is clearly implied in the words of our text. Jesus is telling us to store up treasure for ourselves in heaven by releasing our treasures on earth in love for Him and others. Certainly we cannot take this to mean that the Christian who gives a bit here or there but is often prone to more of a closed hand shall be rewarded in quite the same way as the one who took Jesus up on this call in radical ways. There is motivation in this because there is difference in distribution, in what one can expect in the end.

Proposition #3: The Ultimate Reward Is God Himself—Pursuing this heavenly reward is not so much about getting more of God's stuff as much as it is about getting more of God's heart. God Himself. He is our ultimate reward! But now we must ask: How does Proposition #3 relate back to Proposition #2? If knowing God is the ultimate reward, what does it mean that this reward will vary in degree? Here we finally come to what I mean by "The Capacity". I think if you wrestle and fight by faith to live a life of obedience now—even selling what you have and giving to the needy, trusting your Father to care and provide for you—you will find that you are actually enlarging your capacity for future joy in Him when you see Him face to face. On that day, because of your faithful obedience now, you will have the capacity for deeper experience and appreciation of His love and joy and pleasure.

Proposition #4: Something of the Future Reward Can Be Enjoyed Even Now—When we lay down our lives in love for others, not only are we enlarging our capacity for future joy in God, we are also granted access to some of that joy here and now. When we lay down our lives in love for others, we are not merely digging out the well which shall be filled someday, we are drinking from it and being filled even today!

Reflection Questions



- Read Hebrews 11:24-26 again. What stands out to you? How did certainty of the future reward enable present obedience and abandon to God even when it hurt? Why would certainty of such a thing be critical for what Jesus is calling us to in Luke 12:33? Are you certain of it? Are you even looking to it at all? Explain.
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 again. What is your initial response to this text? How do you interpret it? If you were to die tonight, how do you think you would fare in the judgment? Explain.
- Remembering that this whole discussion in Luke 12 arose because of this interruption from a man in the crowd (v. 13), how do you think all that Jesus is teaching here would speak to this man in his situation? How would he go and live in light of these things? How should you?