

**Mark 6:19-20 – Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal**

A co-worker recently stopped by with his wife and newborn baby. As I admired their new bundle of joy, those famous words popped out of my mouth – “Enjoy each moment, they go by so quickly.” I know I heard it often when my children were born and I would smile and think that we had lot of time ahead of us to make memories. But, oh how those years flew by!

Fast forward twenty-six years later and it hit me how true those words really are! I recently helped my son pack up his belongings as he got married and moved out of our house. We went through some boxes of memories and treasures he had packed up and stored away throughout the years.

Twenty-six years of acquiring all those ‘things’ that were so important to him at various times of his life. We found the stuffed Winnie the Pooh bear dressed in a baseball outfit that was a gift given to him from his namesake when he was born – something he could never part with. I remembered opening the gift like it was yesterday. We went through trophies he won from baseball games, tractor pulls, and other activities – things that he was so proud of from accomplishments he achieved and I could still visualize the joy in his face as he received them. We pulled out special artwork and projects that he had done through school – items that he made that were a reflection of what he felt and made during various

stages of his life. The memories that these items brought back were priceless!

As we went through these ‘things’, decisions had to be made as to what to keep and what to part with. When we were done with the process, the only things that were saved were special gifts that were given to him from special people in his life – those that he has and had a special relationship with.

This exercise was a good parable of how we often seek security and satisfaction from things that make us feel special, important and worthy. Unfortunately, much like the items my son collected throughout his childhood, the things we often look for are only temporary. As we purged these items, we were able to step back and see the relationships that he had made were the true treasure – and they will be eternal.

Every one of our treasures, except our relationship with others and God is temporary. When we treasure ‘things’ of this world, our heart is far from the Lord. But when we put Jesus at the center of our heart, he becomes our eternal treasure.

Reflection: What do I consider to be my greatest treasures?

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gifts that you have given us – our time, our talents, and our treasures. Help us to put you first in our lives by becoming more focused in loving and serving others. Help us to give back the gifts that you have blessed us with so that we can serve you with a joyful heart. Amen.*