

5. Treasure (I)

“Marriage, this side of eternity, is always a war between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of self.”

OPENING DISCUSSION:

Consider and discuss the following BEFORE watching Session 5:

1. What are some things that you treasure in your everyday life?
2. How do you respond if those treasures are stripped from you?

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Matthew 6:19-33

¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. ²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

KEY IDEAS:

1. Marriage, this side of eternity, is a war.
2. Everyone lives for some kind of treasure; we don’t live by instinct.
3. The thing that is your treasure will control your heart.
4. What controls your heart will control your words and behavior.
5. It’s very difficult to keep what God says is important important in our life.
6. Your marriage will always be victimized by, or enhanced by, what you treasure.
7. A desire for even a good thing becomes a bad thing when it becomes a ruling thing.

PRINCIPLE 3:

Marriage, this side of eternity, is always a war between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of self

TREASURE PRINCIPLE 1:

Everyone lives for some kind of treasure

TREASURE PRINCIPLE 2:

The thing that is your treasure will control your heart

TREASURE PRINCIPLE 3:

What controls your heart will control your words and behavior

IMPLICATION 1:

This side of eternity, it's very hard to keep what God says is important important in your heart

IMPLICATION 2:

Your marriage will always be victimized by, or enhanced by, what you treasure

IMPLICATION 3:

A desire for even a good thing becomes a bad thing when that desire becomes a ruling thing

REVIEW:

1. What is treasure?
2. Why is it difficult to keep what God says is important important in our lives?
3. What can the pursuit of treasure do for your marriage?

DISCUSSION:

1. How can good treasures become bad treasures when they become ruling treasures? Be specific.
2. What are some things to treasure, according to the Bible?

APPLYING WHAT YOU LEARNED:

ASSIGNMENT #5 - On A Treasure Hunt

Review your answers to the **Opening Discussion** and **Discussion** sections of Session 5. Then, during the week, journal or take notes below after an incident when you pursued your treasure or when someone or something interrupted your quest for treasure.

What treasure were you seeking? Why was that treasure so important to you? How did you respond when your treasure quest was interrupted? How does that treasure victimize or enhance your marriage? Is that treasure more affiliated with the kingdom of God or with the kingdom of self?

Supplemental Reading:

WDYE Chapter 3
Luke 12:13-21
1 Kings 10:14-11:10



END OF SESSION

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

When I evaluate my schedule and bank account, what are some treasures that reveal themselves?

How can I transfer my time and my money and my abilities from the kingdom of self to the kingdom of God?

If I'm consistently and severely struggling with specific treasure problems, where can I seek help in the body of Christ?