

Title: FIND YOUR TREASURE, MARK 10:17-31
(Chatham, NJ; 10/14/12, AM) [Pc – Topical]

Theme: The encounter with this young man is as perplexing as it is enlightening; Jesus warns us about wealth and about securing salvation through our own goodness.

Purpose: To remind us of Jesus' warnings about trusting in wealth or in our own sense of righteousness.

Introduction:

1. Jesus once said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
2. In the encounter with the rich man Jesus issues warnings about wealth and about trying to secure eternal life by our own righteousness.
3. Wealth provides a false sense of security, 1 Tim. 6:17.
4. Personal goodness is insufficient to gain salvation; only by God's love and mercy are we able to stand before him, Psalm 5:7.

I. A Life of Law vs. a Life of Love, Mark 10:17-31

- A. This man had kept the law, 20
 1. The question of goodness arises early in the discussion
 2. It seems out of character that Jesus deflects the term good; only God is good
 3. When asked what the man must do for eternal life, Jesus tells him to keep the commandments, the Law
 4. Yet this was not sufficient; all the goodness of law-keeping did not gain what he sought; he still lacked concern for others
- B. He lacked love for others – give to the poor
 1. Jesus uncovered the weakness in his plan
 2. He had missed the second commandment, to love one's neighbor
 3. His attitude of law-keeping kept him from seeing the greater needs
 4. His was not a life of love; in a sense it was all about himself
 5. When we get consumed with too many of the details of being right, the focus is on us not on others
 6. Furthermore, without God's grace, salvation is impossible
 7. You can never really do enough, 1 Cor. 13:1-3; love must play a role

II. A Life of Storing Up vs. Doing Good for Others

- A. His possessions possessed him
 1. The rich fool in Luke 12:16-21 (read)
 2. He wanted to "eat, drink, and be merry"
 3. Life was all about him
 4. He was not rich toward God
 5. We can't ignore Jesus' warning: it is hard for a rich man to enter heaven
 6. It is hard for him to enter because his life here seems so worthwhile and good
- B. Where is our treasure? Mt. 6:19-21
 1. Invest what you have where it will accrue real value
 2. Don't put your trust in the wealth of this life, 1 Tim. 6:17
 3. Jesus assures the disciples that they will receive a reward, 29-30
 4. It is a treasure that is waiting for us in the next life

III. Life Now vs. Life Later – eternal life prompted this entire discussion

- A. Life now

1. "Seize the day"
2. "Live for the moment"
3. "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die"
4. These are all the ways that society lives only for the moment
5. Many live for their appetites, Phil. 3:19
6. A meaningless, pitiful life is one reduced to food and drink

B. Life Later

1. Delayed gratification is a mark of maturity
2. When the man asks about eternal life, Jesus assumes that it is real
3. The question becomes, "Will we do what is necessary to obtain that life?"

Conclusion:

1. Don't seek to get there by your own righteousness; keeping the Law will not grant you eternal life. It is possible only with God's grace.
2. Invest your resources here so they might reap a reward in the next life; be rich toward God in good works and compassion.
3. Don't let your possessions possess you; love God not what he has given you.
4. Plan for the next life; don't live for this one.
5. Accept the Gospel; live for Christ; hope for an eternal home.