



Sermon Notes

January 13, 2008

Tim Strickland

Where Your Treasure Is... #2
Treasure is from the Lord
Deuteronomy 8:1-20

Deuteronomy 8:11-20 (ESV) ¹¹Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹²lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, ¹⁶who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. ¹⁷Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' ¹⁸You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. ¹⁹And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. ²⁰Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Introduction

This Year's Theme: **"Don't Waste Your Life!"** ¹

Today: **"Treasure is from the Lord"**

- Message #2 in "Where Your Treasure Is", a new series about God, money & you
- Setting for Deuteronomy 8:1-20

1. This year's theme is taken from the title of John Piper's excellent book, Don't Waste Your Life (Crossway, Wheaton, 2003)

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1. You are dependent on God for all provision (1-5)

- a. Blessing is tied to obedience to God's Word (1)
 - *The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply and go in and possess the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers*
- b. Remember lessons learned from the Lord in the wilderness (2-5)
 - God humbles you to test your heart
 - ...testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.*
 - And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna*
 - God wants your life to depend on His Word, not just on food
 - ...that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord*
 - Quoted by Jesus when He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan in the wilderness (Mt. 4:4)
 - **"...the command of God contained within it the provision of God"** (P. Craigie)
 - Their clothing & footwear did not wear out!
 - The Lord teaches you dependence through discipline (5)
 - *Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you*
 - See Heb. 12:5-11, Prov. 3:12, Rev. 3:19

2. Obey & bless the Lord amidst His abundant provision (6-10)

- a. Obey God's Word & Anticipate His Abundant Provision (6-9)
 - For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land*
 - *water...wheat and barley...vines and fig trees and pomegranates...olive trees and honey...*
 - *bread without scarcity...in which you will lack nothing*
 - *a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper*
- b. Bless the Lord amidst His Abundant Provision!
 - ...you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God*

3. Do not forget the Lord, who gives you the power to get wealth (11-20)

- a. You forget the Lord *by not keeping his commandments* (11)
- b. **Abundance** promotes **Pride** that produces **Amnesia** (12-14)
 - ¹²*lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them,*
 - ¹³*and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied,*
 - ¹⁴*then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God,*
 - ...the same Lord who provided in the wilderness! (14b-16)
 - **Proverbs 18:11-12**
 - ¹⁷*A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.*
 - ¹⁸*Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.*
- c. Remember the Lord your God, who provides you with the power to get wealth, with a purpose to confirm His Word. (17-18)
 - ¹⁷*Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'*
 - ¹⁸*You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*
 - **James 4:13-16** ¹³*Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—¹⁴yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.* ¹⁵*Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."* ¹⁶*As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.*
- d. You will perish if you forget the Lord and serve other gods (19-20)
 - a. **Matthew 6:24** *"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."*

Our Response

1. Bless the Lord for His past, present and future provision. Make it a daily habit to bless Him!
2. Give God the glory for everything you have, be it little or great.
3. Repent of any attitude you may have that takes personal credit for God's provision.

1 Tim. 6:17-19 *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. [18] They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, [19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

Questions for Application

1. Why did the Lord humble Israel in the wilderness? (and why might he humble you in our own personal 'wilderness?')
2. Discuss: "**Abundance** promotes **Pride** that produces **Amnesia**" (see p3)
3. Have you ever been tempted to take credit for your own prosperity? Explain. Why is it sometimes hard to recognize God's provision today?
4. What can you do to ensure you remember the Lord even in prosperous times?
5. How does your attitude towards treasure connect with who is your master? Does earthly treasure master you? Or are you a sold-out slave of Christ?
6. Pray together for strength from the Lord to make Him the greatest treasure in your life. **Count your blessings together & bless Him** for His abundant provision in your life. Pray for transformation in all of our lives as we learn God's wisdom about treasure in this new series.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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