

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
(Matt. 6:19-21)

In my mind I could hear and see the jackhammers tearing apart our patio and then moving inside the family room to destroy the floor there: All because of a leaky pipe. The water was running out from under the house onto the concrete slab of our patio and the plumber said the only way to find the leak was to tear things up. (Do you know they charge \$94.00 an hour? I think I'll be a plumber when I grow up!) Of course it couldn't be as simple as crawling under the kitchen sink and replacing a pipe. Jackhammers were on their way! The other scary part of the whole thing was the unknown cost although we knew it would be way more money than we had. I told one of my friends it is a good thing God owns all the cattle on a thousand hills because He was going to need to sell one. After consulting with another plumber (one with more years under his belt) the decision was made to bypass the old pipes and completely reroute the kitchen drains, tying them into other nearby drains. Now, instead of a torn up patio and family room floor, we have an efficient but oh so ugly pipe suspended from the ceiling. I guess the alternative was so much more grim but think about it.....a 2" pipe (black!) running half the length of your family room.

Okay, long story but here is the point: God gave us our house/home nearly 25 years ago and we have tried to be good stewards of it. The thing we have to always keep in mind is that the house ultimately belongs to Him; we're just getting to enjoy it for a while....it's on loan, so to speak. If we don't think about the "things" we have in terms of them being "on loan" from God, they begin to own us. They become "treasures on earth" that can be taken away in a split second, whether it is by nature or other people or they lose their luster over time and we want to replace them with a newer, prettier model. They hold onto us making us think we are holding onto them. They are "treasures on earth".

It would be so much better, easier, if we were spending as much time "storing up treasures in heaven" as we do taking care of and worrying about the things here in this life. They become so important to us that we sacrifice what is really important to get them. We focus on the gift rather than the Giver, forgetting where the gift came from in the first place. Jesus said, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt.6:33) Jesus was saying that our priority should be heavenly things and as we seek after those, the things we concern ourselves with needing will be given to us "as well". That means "in addition to" the best things of all, God gives us

what we think we need so desperately.....food, clothes, even goodies. He wants us to “need” Him, His righteousness and His kingdom more than anything else.

So, what am I going to do about this ugly pipe? To be honest, I don't want to look at it when I go into the family room. But, guess what? It's not the worst thing that could have happened. God answered our prayers that it be fixed in a manner that we could pay for without borrowing money. It was still more money than we wanted to spend on PIPES, for heaven's sake, but God answered our prayers and that is what we have to focus on. Maybe the ugly pipe is just to remind us of what our treasure needs to be and where the treasure really is. It's good for all of us to step back once in a while and take a look at the importance we place on the “things” in our lives. We all need to ask ourselves, “What do I really consider as my treasures and am I willing to lose them?” That should answer a lot of questions and will hopefully be a wake-up call. Take a look and take stock.

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Have a great week!
Georgia