

Treasure in Heaven

Mark 10:13-22

One of Joyce Grenfell's sung monologues is entitled, 'Lady at Church', and portrays a lady in church one Sunday, standing in her pew, singing a hymn, when she suddenly realises she's left the gas on under a stock pot in the kitchen, and knows it will burn dry and set the house on fire and where was she going to sleep that night, and would there be time for her to make a dash for it and rescue a few treasures before the flames engulfed everything.

Where your treasure is, there your heart is also. It's a Bible saying, and it's one that we sail by without giving it a thought. If your house were on fire, what would be the one thing you would save? What are the things that are most important to you in your home?

In our Bible passage, there is an intentional parallel drawn between the simplicity of children, their immediacy, and their centrality in the kingdom of God, and the rich young man who, on the face of things is a pious man, close to God, but in reality has a major block in his faith life. Sincere, but not ultimately committed, unable to give himself completely to God because he held on too tightly to the things of the world, and was unable to let them go, ultimately, to get a better hold on the things of God. For all his wealth, sophistication and piety, there is emptiness and a frustration to the man's life.

Where your treasure is, there your heart is also. How important is your faith to you? Do you think about it at all? Does it matter to you that you live your life, daily, hourly, by the teachings of Jesus? Or is it the case that you, and me, tend to live half-lives of faith – putting into practice what we believe only when we remember – and valuing so many other things more than our trust in Jesus and our heart-felt commitment to living a life that shows that in the way we think and speak and act?

More than thinking we're Christian, or saying we're Christian or even believing we're Christian is the central truth of *being* Christian. If we were to see the Golden Rule, treat others as we would have them treat us, all day, every day – found at the heart of Christian faith – then how different the world would be, and how different we would be.

Then we would find that not only would we have treasure on earth, in the love, respect and support of those around us, but also treasure in heaven – where God would see where our priorities in life and living truly lay.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen