

Guided by a cloud 24 (Exodus 13:21-22)

Over recent weeks Carole and I have been doing some house clearing. My brother in law lives in Australia and his dad has gone into a care home so we offered to go and do a bit of sorting of their family house in Farnham. The plan was to rescue the personal items and get rid of some of the rubbish. What we found was an ordered house but a huge amount of 'stuff' gathered over many years which I'm sure, like a lot of us do, was kept 'just in case'. I was reminded of two things, firstly a story we used to read to our girls where Mouse and Mole decide they have too much stuff and need to clear out to create space. However, when they get to the tip Mole finds more interesting things to bring home so the free space is quickly filled again. (You can watch the story [here](#) if interested.) Secondly, I thought about the verses in Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 12:34 both of which refer to treasures in heaven and where our heart is.

Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.
Luke 12:34



Worship time

[O Lord my God \(How great thou art\)](#)

[In Christ alone](#)

[Jesus be the centre](#)

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

The passage in Matthew is part of Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount where he taught his disciples many things about how

to follow him and live a life pleasing to God. He was not saying that we shouldn't have stuff, we need things in order to live, rather Jesus was referring to the attitude we have towards our possessions. We see examples of people around us who desire to have the latest 'stuff'. Perhaps a new kitchen gadget or iPhone, and companies play on these desires with all the advertising we see around us. To some people what they have is a sign of their status and their value in life.

Jesus is saying that the things that we treasure here on earth should pale in comparison to the treasures in heaven and that we should go after heaven's treasures. Jesus points us to these heavenly treasures, the things of value, and the things that are focused on Him. As the song goes we want Jesus to be the centre, to be our source, be our light and to be the reason that we live.

When we keep God first, at the centre of our lives, he will sustain us. He will give us what we need. This won't necessarily be everything we want. His choice will depend on whether or not they fit in with his plan for our lives, which is not always easy for us to accept.

So how do we store treasures in heaven? Reading Matthew 5-7 gives a lot of ideas. In chapter 6 Jesus specifically encourages us to seek first his kingdom and righteousness and then we will have what we need to eat, drink and wear. In Colossians 2:2-3 Paul encourages us to be united in love, so that we have the full riches of understanding, in order that we may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

Perhaps it is good for all of us to have a clear out now and again to create space in our lives both physically and spiritually. We can then support each other to focus on the treasures of heaven that Jesus talked about instead of adding more 'stuff' like Mouse and Mole.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7