***THE EASTER CODE***

**Lenten Worship Series – Week 2**

***Code Word:* Treasure**

**March 5, 2023**

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**S  Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Sermon manuscripts are included as a *sample* and not to be preached verbatim. |

**[*Project* “Week 2.QRCode”***(in Graphics file)* ***or below words on screen as people enter*]**

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| ***Code Word:* Treasure**  ***The Christian life is a battle of treasure.***  ***Whatever treasure captures your heart will control your life.*** |

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| **Drama – Safe and Secure** |

**Call to Worship:**

Every human being is a treasure hunter. We’re all looking for that thing of value that will give us life, or at least change our lives. So we hunt for treasure in relationships, careers, possessions, achievements, education, positions of power, or in physical strength and beauty. We never seem to find that pot of heart-satisfying gold that we’re looking for, at least not in the physical, created world. But sadly, many of us keep looking. With desperation or determination, we look again and again, telling ourselves that the next thing will deliver what it was never designed to deliver: life.

What people fail to realize is that they are searching not for a thing, but for a person. The search for treasure is, in reality, a search for a savior. Where you look for treasure will not only control your heart, and therefore, your words and behavior, but it will also determine your destiny. Matthew 6:21 says:

(*Journey to the Cross*, pp. 101-102)

**[*Put scripture below on screen.*]**

21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21, NIV)

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| **SB#938/HC#277 – We have caught the vision splendid** | TB-394 – Austria  HC-277 | HTD1-T2 (3 vs.)  HCD26-T17 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#332/HC#124/SS#4 – Come, now is the time to worship** | TB-596 – same  HC-124  SS-4 | No HT CD  HCD11-T14 |
| **SB#535 – Glorious things of thee are spoken** | TB-394 – Austria  HC-277 | HTD1-T2 (3 vs.)  HCD26-T17 |
| **SB#573/HC#191/SS#1 – Be Thou my vision** | TB-831 – Slane  TB-568 – Be Thou my vision  HC-191  SS-1 | No HT CD  No HT CD  HCD18-T11 |
| **SB#830/HC#189/SS#79 – Come, Thou fount of every blessing** | TB-374 – Nettleton  HC-189  SS-79 | No HT CD  HCD17-19 |
| **SB#391/HC#171 – Stand up and bless the Lord** | TB-149 – Falcon Street  HC-171 | HTD3-T12 (3 vs.)  HCD16-T11 |
| **HC#183/SS#15 – My Life Is in You** | HC-183  SS-15 | HCD17-T13 |
| **SB#56/HC#251 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty** | TB-735 – Lobe den Herren  HC-251 | HTD4-T11 (4 vs.)  HCD24-T11 |
| **SB#804/HC#261/SS#76 – How firm a foundation** | TB-500 – Foundation  HC-261  SS-76 | HTD8-T4 (4 vs.)  HCD25-T11 |

**Invocation**

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| **Children’s Moment – Treasure** |

***Treasures in Heaven***

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:19-24**

[Scripture can be read by one person, split up into a responsive reading, or as a “readers’ theater using *The Voice* version - <https://www.biblegateway.com/> ]

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| **SB#623/SS#131 – Take my life and let it be**  **HC#142 – All for Thee**  **HC#196 – Take My Life and Let It Be/I Am Yours** | TB-249 – Hendon  SS-131  HC-142  HC-196 | HTD8-T6 (4 vs.)  HCD13-T12  HCD18-T16 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#573/HC#191/SS#1 – Be Thou my vision** | TB-831 – Slane  TB-568 – Be Thou my vision  HC-191  SS-1 | No HT CD  No HT CD  HCD18-T11 |
| **SB#629 – Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace** | TB-895 – same | No HT CD |

**Leader: 1**This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. **2**Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

# (1 Corinthians 4:1-2, NIV)

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| **SB#565/HC#89/SS#43 – All I once held dear (Knowing You)** | TB-725 – same  HC-89  SS-43 | No HT CD  HCD7-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#160/SS#125 – I Surrender** | HC-160  SS-125 | HCD14-T20 |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |

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| ***Code Word:* Multiply**  **“Go into all the world and make disciples.” - Matthew 28:19** |
| **DESCRIPTION:** During the Lenten season we will have an opportunity to take 6 weeks to intentionally fast and pray for the salvation of others. The goal and focus on ‘Multiply’ is to share our faith and to develop an *urgency of salvation* mindset for those who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ; and to invite congregants to fast/pray for salvation of others. It would be wonderful to celebrate on Easter Sunday the people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior! |
| **SUPPLIES NEEDED:** a prayer box on the holiness table (clear case works best); cross which fits inside the box; prayer cards printed on card stock (on three different colors – *see samples in Graphics file*); pens. |
| **VISUAL/INTERACTIVE PRAYER:** During the pastoral prayer portion each Sunday, the meeting leader will invite people to participate in 3 different ways, either writing the name of:  1) **someone for whom you are praying for salvation** (white card)  2) **someone to whom you have witnessed this past week** (green card)  3) **someone who has accepted Jesus as their Savior** (red card)  and placing that card in the prayer box on the holiness table. |
| * Explain the evangelism “visual” * “Multiply” – fill out cards/place in box on holiness table * Prayer time as people put cards in box * Pastoral Prayer |

**Announcements and Offering**

**Testimony of Faith – [Choose someone from the congregation who can testify on this theme.]**

**Message – *Code Word:* Treasure**

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| **SB#588 – I bring to Thee my heart to fill** | TB-414 – Christ is all | HTD3-T6 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#495 – I bring my heart to Jesus** | TB-674 – same | No HT CD |
| **SB#595/HC#173 – In this quiet moment** | TB186 – same  HC-173 | No HT CD  HCD16-T13 |
| **SB#610 – My life must be Christ’s broken bread** | TB-111 – Spohr | HTD10-T14 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#613 – O Jesus, I have promised** | TB-213 – Aurelia  HC-286 | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.)  HCD27-T16 |
| **SB#623/SS#131 – Take my life and let it be**  **HC#142 – All for Thee**  **HC#196 – Take My Life and Let It Be/I Am Yours** | TB-249 – Hendon  SS-131  HC-142  HC-196 | HTD8-T6 (4 vs.)  HCD13-T12  HCD18-T16 |
| **SB#636/SS#123 – All to Jesus I surrender** | TB-333 – I surrender all  SS-123 | HTD5-T9 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#569 – All there is of me, Lord** | TB-549 – same | No HT CD |

**Benediction:**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

([Hebrews 13:20-21](http://www.christianity.com/bible/search/?ver=niv&q=hebrews+13%3a20-21), ESV)

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| **HC#309 – Go in Peace, Go in Love** | HC-309 | HCD29-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#861/HC#149/SS#41 – In Christ alone** | TB-132 – same  HC-149  SS-41 | No HT CD  HCD13-T19 |
| **SB#89/HC#161/SS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing (My Great Redeemer’s Praise)** | TB-59 – Azmon  TB-75 – Grimsby  HC-161  SS-48 | HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)  No HT CD  HCD15-T11 |
| **HC#128 – My Tribute** | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |
| **HC#198 – In Jesus’ Name** | HC-198 | HCD18-T18 |
| **SB#358/HC#241/SS#30 – Crown Him with many crowns** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241  SS-30 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |
| **SB#1031/HC#283 – Lord, if Your presence** | TB-740 – same  HC-283 | No HT CD  HCD27-T13 |
| **SB#241 – And can it be** | TB-445 – Sagina | HTD4-T13 (4 vs.) |

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| **Lent 2023 – Week 2** | |
| **DRAMA**  **Safe and Secure**  **By Martyn Scott Thomas**  © Copyright 2022 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | Treasure; Value |
| **Scripture:** | Matthew 6:19-24 |
| **Synopsis:** | A man goes to extremes to protect his valuables from theft. |
| **Characters:** | Davis Cunneyworth – a man with valuables.  Peter Hargrove – a security guard. |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Casual dress for Davis. A guard’s uniform for Peter. A briefcase (or backpack) with a baseball card inside it. |
| **Setting:** | Bare stage. |
| **Running time:** | 4 minutes |

[*Peter is standing center stage, checking his watch and waiting.*]

**Davis:** [*enters cautiously carrying briefcase, looking around*] Mr. Hargrove?

**Peter:** Yes. Are you Mr. Cunneyworth?

**Davis:** [*looking around quickly*] Shh! Yes, but please call me Gus.

**Peter:** I thought you said on the phone that your name was Davis Cunneyworth.

**Davis:** It is, but they could be listening. [*looking around*] So please just call me Gus.

**Peter:** Who’s listening? [*looking around*] We’re all alone.

**Davis:** The bad guys – thieves and robbers. I know they’re out there.

**Peter:** Listen, Gus. There’s no one here. I checked the perimeter when I arrived. Now, did you bring the merchandise?

**Davis:** How do I know that I can trust you?

**Peter:** Well, you’re the one who called my company, Hargrove Security. I assume you checked out our online reviews.

**Davis:** Yes, I did. You come highly recommended.

**Peter:** I can assure you that my company has been in the security business for over 35 years and has been protecting private property and individuals alike. We have a spotless track record.

**Davis:** Sounds good. I just wanted to make sure you were who you said you were.

**Peter:** [*reaches for his wallet*] I can show you my I.D.

**Davis:** Not necessary. Your uniform looks authentic.

**Peter:** I appreciate your caution. Protecting people and possessions are our main priority.

**Davis:** That’s good to hear. Because I want to keep my valuables safe.

**Peter:** And did you bring them with you? You were very specific about meeting here instead of in your home.

**Davis:** Yes, I have them right here [*pointing to briefcase*]. I don’t trust my neighbors. They’re always watching me.

**Peter:** And you said that this was a valuable collection of some kind?

**Davis:** Yes, it’s my baseball card collection.

**Peter:** Ah! Those can be quite valuable. You don’t have a Honus Wagner in there do you?

**Davis:** Who?

**Peter:** Honus Wagner. His 1911 baseball card sold for over 6 million dollars.

**Davis:** No, I wish. That would be a pretty good one.

**Peter:** Any Micky Mantle or Babe Ruth cards in your collection?

**Davis:** Are those valuable?

**Peter:** They could fetch 4 or 5 million dollars.

**Davis:** No. Nothing like that. And I might be stretching it to call it a collection.

**Peter:** Well, how many cards do you have?

**Davis:** [*opens briefcase and pulls out a solitary card*] Just one.

**Peter:** Well, as long as it’s the right one.

**Davis:** [*holding it up proudly*] A 2006 Bobby Johnson.

**Peter:** [*reaches for the card*] Who?

**Davis:** [*pulling it back*] Bobby Johnson.

**Peter:** Who is Bobby Johnson?

**Davis:** He was a career minor leaguer who got a brief call up for the Mets. This is his only card.

**Peter:** Can I see it?

**Davis:** [*hesitantly hands it over*] Just be careful.

**Peter:** [*looking at the card*] It says here, he batted .204 for his career with no home runs and 4 RBIs.

**Davis:** Is that good?

**Peter:** Do you know anything about baseball?

**Davis:** Not really. I’m more of a bocce fan.

**Peter:** Well, trust me, it’s not good. Actually, it’s pretty awful. I can’t imagine this card is worth anything.

**Davis:** But it’s in mint condition.

**Peter:** [*showing him the card*] It has a crease across the middle of the card.

**Davis:** I may have folded it once. It wouldn’t fit in my wallet. That’s why I carry it in my briefcase now. I did try to iron it out, though.

**Peter:** That would explain the burn mark. [*pause, handing card back*] I’m sorry, Mr. Cunneyworth, [*correcting himself*] I mean Gus, I don’t think that I’ll be able to take your business.

**Davis:** [*taking card*] You mean you can’t protect my property.

**Peter:** I mean I won’t take your money to protect a worthless baseball card.

**Davis:** It’s not worthless. It’s Bobby Johnson.

**Peter:** But nobody’s ever heard of him.

**Davis:** I have. And so has everyone from Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.

**Peter:** Where?

**Davis:** Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. We were in third grade together.

**Peter:** Oh, I see.

**Davis:** So, will you protect my card?

**Peter:** I don’t know. Maybe if you could get it signed. Autographed cards are always worth more.

**Davis:** Well, Bobby and I aren’t really friends any more.

**Peter:** Oh no, what happened?

**Davis:** Let’s just call it the dodge ball fiasco of 1990.

**Peter:** I see. Well, Gus, I think the best thing may be for you to hang on to this card yourself. Just keep it in a safe place, far away from any of your grade school friends.

**Davis:** I guess I could put it in the fake peanut butter jar in my pantry.

**Peter:** That sounds like a great plan.

**Davis:** But then I’d have to move my potato chip that looks like Richard Nixon.

[*Davis turns to put card back in briefcase and Peter exits quickly, unnoticed.*]

**Davis:** [*turning toward where Peter* was] Say, do you offer chip protection? [*looking around*] Mr. Hargrove? Mr. Hargrove? [*exits, calling out*] Mr. Hargrove? Where did you go?

[*Blackout*]

***THE EASTER CODE***

**Children’s Moment – Week 2**

***Code Word:* Treasure**

**March 5, 2023**

**by Katie Laidlaw**

**Synopsis:** The Code Word series focuses on 7 topics, from the perspective of scientists working in “The Code Lab” in order to find the secret ingredients to living out the power of the resurrection.

**Costume:** lab coat, goggles/glasses, gloves, mustache

**Set-up/Staging:** Small table or rolling cart with props.

**Props:** Several dirty pennies, 2 dishes, white vinegar or lemon juice, water, paper towel

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| **Week 2 – Treasure** |

**[*Invite children to come to the front, either having them stand or sit for the lesson.*** (I personally recommend having the children stand, as this helps keep them attentive, engaged, and involved in the lesson—especially with the dynamic of the congregation “watching them.” In this more public/formal setting, sitting provides a more relaxed/informal mindset, allowing the children to disengage and merely be present in the moment.)**]**

**Script:**

Welcome back to The Code Lab! I am so excited that you are here. I can’t wait to show you what we are working on today.

How many of you like treasure? [*Allow children to respond*]

Well, I recently found some treasure of my own… what do you think?! [*Show kids the dirty pennies, and allow them to respond*]

Does this not look like treasure? What should treasure look like? [*Allow children to respond*]

I did some research on this whole treasure thing. The Bible, in the book of Matthew, tells us not to focus on treasures found on earth, but instead focus on treasures of heaven (Matthew 6:19-20).

What are some things we might consider to be treasures here on earth? [*Allow children to respond. Possible responses: money, popularity, nice car, success, work, likes on social media, etc.*]

Let me tell you a little secret about earthly treasures: they do not last. Everything on earth is temporary. But our true home—as friends of Jesus—is in heaven. This is why Jesus gives us instructions to focus on the treasure in heaven.

You might think of golden streets and piles of gold coins when you think of the treasure in heaven, but this isn’t what Jesus was talking about.

Jesus wants us to focus on showing others His love, so that all people can become friends with Him and experience heaven with us!

How can we show others the love of Jesus? [*Allow children to respond*]

We want everyone to know and experience the love of Jesus, because He is our treasure—a treasure that lasts forever. Things like money, popularity, super fancy cars and success sometimes cause us to forget that we need Jesus. These things can become our focus, instead of knowing Jesus and helping other people know Him too. The things that people consider treasure here on earth do not matter; being friends with Jesus is what truly matters.

Let’s test this theory. [*Drop pennies one by one into vinegar or lemon juice*]When we give, or surrender, our need for treasures on earth to Jesus, this is what happens to our hearts! [*Take out pennies and wipe with paper towel*] When Jesus has, and changes our hearts, we can enjoy the treasures of earth, but they aren’t the most important to us. When our hearts are changed, we also become willing to share our treasure with others, helping others see that Jesus is the most important treasure of all.

Colossians 3:2-3 (NLT) says, **“Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.”**

Thanks for helping to sort out my treasure situation today. I am excited to share what we learned with the rest of my friends in The Code Lab!

[*Pray.*]

**Main Points:**

* Everything on earth is temporary. But our true home—as friends of Jesus—is in heaven.
* Jesus wants us to focus on showing others His love, so that all people can become friends with Him and experience heaven with us!
* The things that people consider treasures here on earth do not matter; being friends with Jesus matters.
* When Jesus has, and changes our hearts, we can enjoy the treasures of earth, but they aren’t the most important to us. When our hearts are changed, we also become willing to share our treasures with others, while helping others see that Jesus is the most important treasure of all.

**Questions:**

* How many of you like treasure?
* What should treasure look like
* What are some things we might consider to be treasures here on earth?
* How can we show others the love of Jesus?

***THE EASTER CODE***

**Lenten Sermon – Week 2**

***Code Word:* Treasure**

**March 5, 2023**

**Major Catherine Mount**

**TITLE: *Code Word:* Treasure**

**THEME: Treasure in Heaven**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:19-24**

**ILLUSTRATION**

How many of you have been on a treasure hunt? (Geocaching – we call it a treasure hunt. It’s so disappointing when there is no treasure. Our 7-year-old guest last weekend was *disappointed* when there was no toy, no money, no voucher for ice cream. There was no treasure at the end of the treasure hunt. Lesson learned.) A simple treasure hunt can be disappointing to a kid, but how much more devasting it is to an adult who works their whole life, who strives for the best, who sacrifices important relationships and opportunities and *time*, while all along pursuing the *wrong* treasure. Today, Jesus reminds us why ‘what’ we treasure is so important.

Jesus is not discouraging success or wealth; He’s calling out the crowd (and you and me, too) on what can be one of the most awkward topics of conversation (2,000 years ago *and* today): what we value. So, we consider the simple question today. **What do you treasure?**

**PRAY**

**READ SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 6:19-24.

**MATTHEW 6 FOCUS**

Now, it’s interesting while we’re looking for the answer to *what* we treasure, Jesus actually starts the conversation with WHERE our treasure is – on earth or in heaven? So, to take our original question a step further, is your heart attached to the things of earth or to the things of heaven? Are you running after, striving for, and pursuing the Creator or the things He created? What consumes your days? God or His stuff? What we give attention to matters. And even more than that, our choices matter. How you make your money, how you spend your money, how you use your time, who you spend your time with, how you use your energy—it all MATTERS!

Paul Tripp puts it this way: “Treasure decisions have huge consequences here and now and in the life that is to come.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

And as we consider today’s scripture, I think there’s something we can do in this “treasure hunt” of life; we can choose to make a *heart shift* that will help us adjust are thinking about the treasure in our lives. Instead of asking, “what do I treasure,” ask *“what does GOD treasure?”* All of a sudden, everything we pursue, everything we do, everything we spend our time on, shifts from the temporal to the eternal. And if that question (what does God treasure?) becomes our foundational question in making decisions, in our relationships, in our behavior, in our actions, do you know what happens? We start changing our thinking from “how am I going to spend MY money” to “how am I going to spend God’s money?” We shift from “how am I going to spend my time” to “how am I going to use every second to bring Glory to God?” We change from “how am I going to treat that person” to “how would God want me to treat that person?” Do you love Jesus? If so, then what we treasure should line up with what God treasures.

Do you know what *doesn’t* line up with what God treasures? Money, toys, entertainment, clothes, stuff…all of the created things of this world. Why? Because they will not last. Look at verse 20. What happens? Moths. Rust. Thieves. These things won’t last. And if you think the money I leave behind will last—it will be a wealth legacy for my children, for others—I want to remind you that money will not save their souls. Only Jesus will.

What do you treasure? Because what you treasure is what holds your heart. It motivates you and it moves you to sacrifice. What have you given up for what you treasure?

**READ SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:44-46** – *The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl.*

**MATTHEW 13 FOCUS**

In teaching about the kingdom of heaven, what do these two men have in common? It’s that when they found the treasure, they sold everything they had so they could focus on the treasure they found (refer to vs. 44, 45). “We all make sacrifices every day for things we think are valuable, things that we think will carry our happiness, satisfaction, and joy. No one lives a sacrifice free life” [[2]](#footnote-2)

But we’ve got to go back to our original question, “What do you treasure?” Are you sacrificing for the right and holy and sacred treasure that God has for you—that is, His kingdom—those eternal realities that we can know in a now-and-forever relationship with Jesus Christ? Or are your making sacrifices for the things that could disappear—that *will* disappear—because they are things of this earth? It’s curious to consider that often, we might sacrifice the same things for bad treasure as for good. The difference is that only one treasure meets our need, and that’s Jesus. And the devil is going to do everything he can to convince you that the sacrifice isn’t worth it. But name that for what it is: a lie. You will never regret matching up your heart and will with God.

**EXHORTATION – WATCH OUT**

Spiritual warfare can be a difficult front when it comes to treasure. One of Satan’s greatest schemes is to take good things (gifts that God created) and convince you that they are more important than God—things like ministry and calling, or family and relationships, career, or good works. None of those realities are in and of themselves bad. In fact, they are good. But when they take the place of God and become the thing that you treasure—the thing that captures your heart—WATCH OUT! Satan has taken that good thing and fashioned it into an idol in your heart. Charles Spurgeon said: “If you love anything better than God you are idolaters: if there is anything you would not give up for God it is your idol: if there is anything that you seek with greater fervor than you seek the glory of God, that is your idol, and conversion means a turning from every idol.” Is there anything in your life that has become an idol? Something you treasure above God? Because, let me remind you, when Jesus is our Savior, He’s first—Jesus is the treasure! He is our first love! For everything and everyone else we should pray and ask, “Lord, how can I be a good steward of the good things you have brought to my life?”

When we witness a baby dedication, we see a perfect, wonderful and good gift from God, whose parents and family and friends would do anything for! The parents recognize their child as a good, holy gift, and say to God, “We entrust this child to You! We commit to being parents who will be good stewards of this gift. We will love and treasure this child like You do, and teach him/her Your ways.”

Brothers and sisters, God wants each of us to bring that kind of dedication to every area of our lives, to every area of our hearts. Look back Matthew 6:22-23, where we said our eyes are important. Unlike the parable of the hidden treasure in the field, we’re not looking down in the field for God’s kingdom, we’re looking up!

Paul writes in **COLOSSIANS 3:1-3:**

***1*** *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.****2****Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.****3****For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

Brothers and sisters, LOOK UP! Where’s your treasure? Where do you need to make adjustments in your life to line your heart up with God?

**CHALLENGE**

How does the way you spend your time/money/energy reveal what you truly treasure?

1. i Tripp, P. D. (2021). *Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional*. Crossway. Pg. 102. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Tripp, P. D. (2021). *Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional*. Crossway. Pg. 103. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)