



A Twenty-One Day Digital Devotional

Day Fifteen

Treasure God Like Smaug Treasures Gold

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

When I think of treasure, my mind is drawn to a scene from J.R. Tolkien's, *The Hobbit*. There is a Dragon named Smaug who is guarding a mountain full of golden treasure. Smaug has become the sole possessor of an enormous amount of golden coins that were once the riches of the Kingdom of Erebor. These yellow...soft...metal coins have become everything to the dragon. Even to the point of death. They truly are his treasure. His whole nature is and for the sake of these yellow...soft...metal coins. Even to the point that he dies trying to protect what he perceives as his.

So, in thinking about this character Smaug, how are we any different? What beckons our affection so deeply that we are willing to sacrifice our life? It is interesting that we sing songs most every weekend about giving it ALL to the Lord, yet our weekdays may suggest otherwise. Not too long ago, I remember Pastor Jason using a quote that went something like, "The last part of a man to be converted is his wallet." If we nail right down to it...in our American context, most often, we treasure our wallets above the eternal treasures of heaven. So how do we repent and change?

The last part of a man to be converted is his wallet. - John Wesley

The Bible says the earth is the Lord's and all that is within it (Psalm 24:1). The truth is nothing on this earth has ever been or will ever be mine for eternity. It is all fleeting. Chemical bonds will break, kingdoms of man will crumble and beauty will fade. If we say with our mouths we believe but deny God by withholding what was already His to begin with, do we really believe? When we give, we are most like Jesus. That is the goal of a Christian, right? To be more like Jesus and less like Smaug. Yellow...soft...metal coins become just that, instead of hypnotizing objects driving our lives.

Questions To Consider

What have I treasured above Jesus?

If I don't trust Him with everything, why?

Prayer Focus

Father, You have proven time and time again You are trustworthy. You keep Your promises. May we treasure You more than possessions. Help us to have more faith in You. Help us to live out our faith and not just say it.

Written by Thad Wood, Worship Pastor