

Revitalize your “Treasures”

At my house we watch a lot of HGTV, DIY and FYI networks. We watch House Hunters, and House Hunters International, Log Cabin Living, Property Brothers, Love It or List It, and Rehab Addict. We also watch Tiny House Hunting, Tiny House Living, and Tiny House Nation. We are fascinated with the homes other people live in. I find it thought provoking, the extremes of the types of homes. On one side people are spending what I consider huge amounts of money and buying homes with 3-4,000 square feet, and then there are the minimalists that want to spend less on their 100 square foot home than on the truck that will pull it.

Well, to my mind a 4,000 sq. ft. house with five bathrooms is just too much cleaning! But the extreme of the 100 ft. tiny house makes me feel claustrophobic! But one thing about both sets of house hunters is that they really want it all in whatever size home they have! Most of us fall in the middle of the size of our homes. It all depends on what treasures you want to keep around you.

In a tiny house you can't keep extras or spares or just-in-case items. I certainly couldn't have my yarn stash, or my bookcases or even half of my cooking gadgets. And let's not get started on clothes and shoes and my jewelry! Some of the tiny house kitchens make it look like you can only store one box of cereal at a time!

But then you look at all of the things you need for that big house with five bathrooms. How many sets of towels do you need? You really have to keep a stock of toilet paper, hand soap and body wash, not to mention the cleaning products. You really need a good vacuum cleaner or two for 4,000 sq. ft. even if you have some tile and hardwoods.

Another thing I've noticed about these shows is that there is always something they want to change immediately. I've lived in our house for 24 years with the same ugly kitchen floor and outdated counter tops the house was built with. Some days I grumble a little, but they are functional. Most changes can wait!

Most of us live somewhere in between McMansion and tiny house. But all of us store up treasures in our homes and lives; sometimes the treasure is the home. As I studied Matthew 6:19-21 to teach the youth class I realized that we need to 'revitalize' our idea of treasures.

“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.” Matthew 6:19-21

It’s true; some things are ‘treasures’, but even the photos that we treasure can’t go with us to heaven. Our earthly treasures are only of value here. Remember the collections of Beanie Babies that so many people had? Are they really treasures anymore? Many of my earthly treasures are things that belonged to my grandmother or my mom or Dave’s mom. I enjoy looking at them, using them and thinking about the people they once belonged to. In that way, that earthly treasure ties to a heavenly treasure.

As I taught this to the youth we talked about what are heavenly treasures. Of course, a soul saved is a heavenly treasure but there are other things that count as well. A kindness given or received, generosity, compassion, all of these qualify. If you worked at VBS you probably have plenty of treasures in the smiles and giggles and experiences with the children. Now that’s an awesome treasure.

I spent some time holding a friend’s hand the other day while she poured her heart out. That’s a treasure. My daughter and I ate lunch at a restaurant where a friend of hers from school works. Her friend hugged her and then at the end of our meal she brought us a dessert because she was so happy to see my daughter before she goes out of state. That’s a treasure. So many of the treasures we get to store up in heaven are mutual. Both parties, the giver and receiver, have a treasure.

When you express the fruits of the Spirit (The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23) you add to your heavenly treasure trove. When you pray with passion and sincerity you add to the pile. When you sing and praise and worship God with all your heart that treasure grows.

We don’t have to become minimalists to revitalize our ‘Treasure Trove’, if you enjoy your silver spoon collection—keep it! But we may want to refocus our eyes onto eternal treasures or just be more aware of the opportunities for adding to your heavenly treasures.

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