

# Don't Bury Your Treasure

15 - 1 Peter: A New World & A New Way  
Sunday, 16 Dec 2012

**Text:** 1 Peter 4:4-11

**Intro:** In the classic Pirate movie, a pirate finds treasure and buries it. He's looking to keep it safe and retrieve it at a later time. But here in 1 Peter 4:4-11 Peter tells us not to bury our treasures. The end is near; God is about to wrap everything up. There's no time left to bury your treasure. Instead, we are to use what God has give to bless and serve others.

(Thanks to all for last Sunday. Thanks for prayers for us getting home.)

## 1) It's important for us to have a healthy view of the end times.

- Stay away from the **fanatic's obsession** as well as **lukewarm apathy**
- "Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up." "The end of everything is approaching"
- Maya prophecy - 21 or 23 Dec 2012.
  - "No one **knows** the day or hour" - Jesus (Matt. 25:13, cf. Luke 21:34-36)
- It's important that every believer has a good **grasp** on the end of all thing, that is eschatology. Not a fanatics **obsession** or a weird fascination with apocalyptic things, but a **sound** and **balanced** approach.
- Sound mind. Sober mind. Watchful. Alert. We need to plan for generations ahead but live expectanting Jesus' imminent return—he can come at any time.
- Peter talks about the end at the end of his letter. This passage is the **official ending**, the rest is an epilogue, afterthought or summary.
- The words here reflect **the end of Jesus' ministry on earth**—the last supper, Gethsemane and the resurrection. Washing of feet, Disciples sleeping, Jesus' love covering over Peter's sin and Jesus telling Peter to feed the sheep.
- In light of the end, what are the key **most important things**? Watch & Pray. Deep love. Hospitality. Serving one another. Speaking God's Word. Wherever you find these elements in a community people are saved and there's good fruit.

## 2) Live with purpose. Your time on earth is short. Everyday we are drawing closer to Christ's return. Live so that your not ashamed at Christ's judgment seat.

- The fact that the end is near means we should live with purpose—a purpose that is beyond self-pleasure and that will change the world we live in.
- It's appointed to man to die once and after that the judgment.
- 2 Cor. 5:10
- **READ Luke 19:11-27**
- Why did Jesus tell this parable? "Because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once"
- **Three Questions to Live with Purpose**

### **1) First, what has the Lord given you?**

- Don't just look at the obvious things, but rather things that may not be obvious at first
- Look at the things you may take for granted
- Relationships, children, spiritual gifts, ideas, money, possessions, abilities, wisdom, your body, your church
- Everybody has something. When you think you have nothing even the little you have is taken from you. "Everyone who has, more will be given, but as for those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

### **2) Second, how can you multiply it?**

- How can you use what you have to multiply God's Kingdom? How can you use your treasure to serve others?
- This is where you need to ask God for wisdom. James 1.
- God has put in your hands the ability to multiply his Kingdom and create wealth.
- God will not continue to bless you unless you live to be a blessing
- Think multiplication rather than addition. "If you give a man a fish you will feed him for a day, but if you teach him to fish you will feed him for a lifetime." Do both. Give people fish so that they can survive in order that you can teach them to fish.
- Make multipliers

### **3) Third, is there anything in your attitude hindering you from multiplying your treasure?**

- Don't bury your treasure
- We bury our treasure when our attitude and perspective is wrong.
- Notice the man with the one talent in the parable.
- How can we keep ourselves from the wrong attitude toward God and our lives?
- What are the major obstacles to fruitfulness in our lives?
  - Fear
  - Wrong perceptions of our King - he's too hard
  - Dishonesty

### **3) Don't bury your treasure, but use it so that God may be praised through Jesus Christ.**

- God will judge us on how we serve. That judgment will happen at the end, but also it happens everyday. God sees if we are faithful with the little in order to give us more.
- We can be unashamed at Christ's coming (1 John 2:28)
- Don't check out of the world, but live to bring change in the church and the world

**Conclusion:** Know the end is approaching. Live with a God-given purpose. Don't bury your treasure.