

Time Audit Chronicles: Treasure in Heaven – Prioritizing Eternal Values

(Matthew 6:19-34)

Prologue: What Really Matters?

The Presswood family’s living room was a cozy swirl of activity as Ariel and Alice worked on separate projects at the coffee table. Ariel was building a savings jar for a school charity drive, carefully decorating it with glitter and stickers. Meanwhile, Alice was creating a treasure map for Mr. Fluffernutter’s next “adventure.”

“Daddy,” Ariel asked, glancing up from her project, “how do you know if something’s worth saving up for?”

Ryan, seated nearby with his laptop, smiled at the question. “That’s a great question, Ariel. But Jesus had an even bigger one: How do you know if something is worth living for?”

Alice perked up, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter. “Did He talk about treasure?”

Ryan nodded. “He did. Jesus taught about storing up treasures in heaven—things that last forever, not just for this life.”

“Like what?” Ariel asked, intrigued.

Ryan leaned forward. “Why don’t we see for ourselves? The Time Audit Machine can take us to the moment when Jesus taught about heavenly treasure and what it means to truly trust God.”

Alice jumped up, ready to go. “Mr. Fluffernutter loves treasure!”

“Then let’s follow the map to the hillside,” Ryan said with a grin.

The Journey Begins: Treasures Worth Keeping

The Time Audit Machine hummed to life as Ariel tapped the glowing controls.

“Destination: Galilean hillside, 27-29 CE. Objective: hear Jesus’ teaching on treasure in heaven and trusting God.”

With a flash of light, the family was transported to the peaceful slopes of a Galilean hillside. The afternoon sun bathed the landscape in a warm glow, and a gentle breeze carried the scent of wildflowers. A large crowd sat attentively as Jesus stood at the top, His calm yet commanding voice carrying over the murmurs.

“There He is,” Ryan said, pointing to the Teacher.

“What’s He talking about?” Ariel asked, already pulling out her notebook.

“Let’s find out,” Ryan replied.

The Teaching: Treasures in Heaven

Jesus raised His voice, addressing the crowd:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.” (Matthew 6:19-20)

Ariel furrowed her brow. “Treasures in heaven? What does that mean?”

“It means investing in things that last forever,” Ryan explained. “Like showing love, helping others, and living for God’s kingdom. Those are things that can never be taken away.”

“So, no gold coins?” Alice asked, holding up her treasure map.

Ryan smiled. “Not the kind you keep in a chest, Alice. Heavenly treasure is about building a life that reflects God’s values.”

Jesus continued: “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Ariel scribbled in her notebook. “So whatever we value most is what controls us?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “If we value eternal things, our hearts will be focused on God and His purposes.”

Light in the Darkness

Jesus shifted His focus to the way we see the world: “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness.” (Matthew 6:22-23)

“What does He mean by ‘single’?” Ariel asked.

“It means focused,” Ryan explained. “When our eyes—or our hearts—are fixed on God, our whole life is filled with His light. But if we’re focused on selfish or worldly things, we lose sight of what really matters.”

Choosing the Right Master

“No man can serve two masters,” Jesus said firmly. “For either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)

“What’s mammon?” Alice asked, tilting her head.

“It means money or possessions,” Ryan said. “Jesus is saying we can’t let worldly things control us. We have to choose—are we living for God or for stuff?”

“So if we love money too much, it pushes God out?” Ariel asked.

“Exactly,” Ryan replied. “God wants our whole heart, not just part of it.”

Do Not Worry

The crowd leaned in as Jesus continued, His tone both comforting and challenging:

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on... Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?” (Matthew 6:25-26)

Alice pointed to the birds circling overhead. “Does God really feed them?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus is reminding us that God cares for everything He’s made, even the smallest creatures. And if He takes care of them, He’ll take care of us too.”

Jesus added: “Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?” (Matthew 6:27)

“So worrying doesn’t change anything?” Ariel asked.

“Right,” Ryan said. “Instead of worrying, Jesus wants us to trust that God knows what we need.”

Seek First the Kingdom

Jesus concluded with a powerful call to focus on eternal priorities:

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

“So if we put God first, He’ll take care of the rest?” Ariel asked, scribbling furiously.

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Jesus isn’t saying we won’t have challenges, but when we prioritize God’s kingdom, we can trust Him to provide what we need.”

An Example in the Crowd

As the Presswoods watched, a young man in the crowd gave a small coin to an older woman sitting nearby. She smiled gratefully, and the young man’s face lit up with joy.

“See that?” Ryan said, pointing. “That’s an example of treasure in heaven. That act of kindness will last forever.”

Returning Home: A New Perspective

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, leaving the family deep in thought. Ariel flipped through her notes, while Alice tucked her treasure map into Mr. Fluffernutter's "pouch."

"Jesus wasn't saying we can't enjoy life," Ariel said thoughtfully. "He was saying we should focus on what really matters."

"Exactly," Ryan said. "When we prioritize God's kingdom, we're building something that lasts forever—treasures in heaven."

Alice looked up. "Do you think we can do that too?"

"We already are," Ryan said with a smile. "Every time we love others, trust God, or live for His purposes, we're storing up treasure where it really counts."

Reflection: Living for Eternity

That evening, Ariel read aloud from Matthew 6:

"'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'"

The family sat quietly, reflecting on the simplicity and power of Jesus' words.

"Jesus showed us what really matters," Ryan said. "It's not about how much we have—it's about who we're living for."

"And when we live for Him," Ariel added, "we're part of something eternal."

Alice held up her treasure map proudly. "I think heaven is the best treasure ever!"

"And it's one we can start building today," Ryan said with a grin.

Takeaway: Focused on the Eternal

Jesus' teaching on treasure in heaven reminds us to prioritize what lasts forever—God's kingdom, His love, and His purposes. By trusting Him with our needs and focusing on eternal values, we build a life that reflects His glory and brings lasting joy. In a world that often chases temporary treasures, Jesus calls us to something far greater: a life centered on Him.