

HEAVENLY TREASURE-EARTHEN VESSELS



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men brought treasure, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But they also came seeking treasure, heavenly treasure. They traveled an awesome distance and at tremendous expense to them, to find this treasure. Now as they look into the manger, tears streamed down their ancient faces. For they saw in this infant what almost nobody else could see.

They saw heavenly treasure contained in a tiny fragile, earthen vessel.



And as they worshiped this treasure, which was contained in this ordinary thing, this baby, they saw glory coming from his face, not with the natural eye, but with another kind of eye. And as they saw this and worshiped, the glory that was in this baby flowed into their hearts like a river of healing light.

They went on their way rejoicing because in a mystery, the glory which had been in this child, and is in this child, had come in and touched and changed their lives. They went back to their homeland to spend the few remaining years that they had on this earth to prepare the way for the Messiah in the East.

About 30 years later, this baby, now a man, spoke these words.

The Kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys the field.

Matthew 13:44

The treasure is always hidden in the field, always wrapped in an earthen vessel. It's always found in something so ordinary that you could walk past it 1000 times and never see it, never notice it, until you have eyes to see. But when you see that treasure, really see it, how can you not sell all that you have to buy the field?

That's what the wise men were really doing. Now they saw the sign of the treasure, this brilliant light in the heavens, but they didn't worship the light that they saw. They followed the sign. And when they finally got to the treasure, there it was wrapped in a baby. A baby like every other baby that needed to be nursed, changed, washed, held, protected. And as they worshiped this baby, these men sold all they had to buy the field for this treasure. That's what they were doing.

And we need to learn three lessons from these wise men. To....

Behold the treasure in the earthen vessel.

Receive the treasure into the earthen vessel of our own bodies.

Give the treasure to the earthen vessels around us.

Behold the treasure in the earthen vessel

First of all, we have to learn to behold the treasure in the earthen vessel, to see it. To see that the heavenly treasure is always contained in an earthen vessel. And to do this we need to know what we're looking for. Many of us are still looking for the fireworks and the chills and the thrills. Many of us are still hoping that we're going to see some kind of blinding light, like the apostle Paul saw, or at least an Angel like Mary saw. But it wasn't the blinding light that changed Paul's life, and it wasn't the Angel that changed Mary's life.

It was the glory that came from the face of this child

This is the thing that changes us. And keeps changing us when we see it.

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthian 4:6



When the wise men saw the star, they didn't just get their telescopes out and analyze it. But they followed where the star led, where it pointed. They read the meaning of the sign and pursued it until they finally could see the glory. They kept going until they saw the glory shining out of the face of this ordinary child.

And we need to learn to do the same, don't settle for anything less. Don't be satisfied until you see the glory. And don't be confused by the fact that the glory always is contained in the ordinary. No, they weren't looking for fireworks in heaven. They weren't looking for spiritual thrills, they weren't looking for lots of bang and boom and noise and crash. They were looking for glory. And they had enough sense to know that that glory is always wrapped in something quite earthly. And when they found it, they worshipped.

Now if that glory made itself known to those Gentile wise men, it will make itself known to us, if we seek it.

Seek it and you're going to find it. You will see the glory of God in the face of Christ.

You will see it.

Somehow you will see it.

And when you see it, you will not be able to resist, joyfully, selling all you have... to buy the field with the treasure.

Receive the treasure into the earthen vessel of our own bodies



The second thing we need to learn to do is take the treasure into the earthen vessel of our own body...in an act of faith.

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

2 Corinthian 4:6-7

These wise men were not tourists. They didn't travel all that distance and then whip out their cameras and take pictures of each other in front of the manger to show all their friends back home. They were there on business, and their business was to worship. What they did when they found the treasure was bow down. They took off their shoes, they became low, so low that the glory in this infant could flow from the child into them.

Now they gave him gifts of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh which were prophetic gifts. showing what was lying ahead for this child who was to become a king in the highest sense of the word. Who was to become a priest in the highest sense of the word. Who was to become a sacrificial lamb in the highest sense of the word.

But the gifts of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh meant something more than that. These gifts meant that these men were selling out. They were selling all they had to buy the field. They were joyfully making room for this glory to come into the earthen vessel of their bodies.

And that's what we need to learn to do.

We need to learn that no matter where we feel we are on our spiritual journey, to open up wide, and to make room, so that the glory of the Lord can flow into our aging, dying vessels and to let the glory of heaven, which is eternal, to come into us. And we need to make room for this to happen. We need to behold it, to receive it, to make room for it, and push out anything that gets in the way. Don't let anything interfere with this.

***Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.***

Revelation 3:20

"I'm going to make myself known to you.



I'm knocking on the door. If you'll open the door, I'll come in.

If you will give me any kind of welcome at all I will visit you.

If you will call on my name. I will answer you”.

So we're talking not about accepting a doctrine, holding a certain doctrinal position. We're talking about receiving the Living Spirit of the living Yeshua, into the vessel of our body, into our lives.

Letting him come in.

Letting him take charge.

And even if we don't fully understand what that all means and say “Lord, please take over. Take over the whole house, every room, not just the front parlor but the whole thing, every room in this house and cause

Everything that's evil.

Everything that's deceitful.

Everything that's dishonest.

Everything that's shallow.

Everything that's false.

Everything that's of death

.... to be driven out by your glory”.



And it will be done. It'll be done afresh today.

Give the treasure to the earthen vessels around us

And then finally we have to learn to give this glory, which comes into us, to the earthen vessels around us, to those ready to take it. To give this precious treasure to the earthen vessels who are hungering for and thirsting for and seeking it.

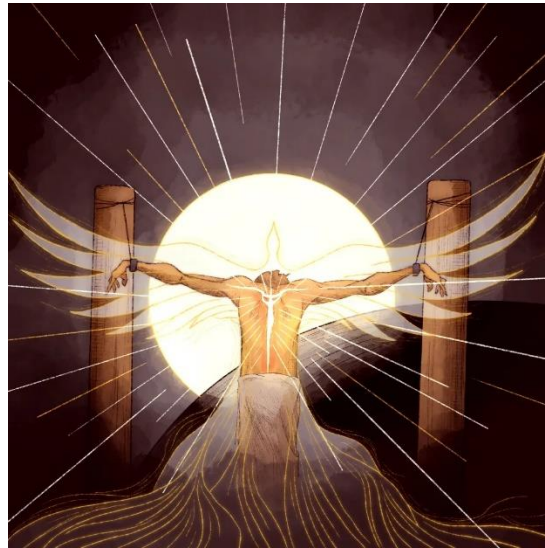
And we may not think that there are any such people around, but they are. They're all over the place.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed, but not driven to despair. Persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed.

Always carrying about in the body, this body, this earthen vessel the dying of the Lord Jesus, so that this heavenly treasure, the life of Jesus, the glory of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

2 Corinthian 4:7-10



We really don't know what happened to the wise men when they went back to their homeland. But we can be sure of this, that the heavenly treasure that visited them took control of their lives.

The heavenly treasure always rules the earthen vessel because the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

So that if I open myself to the Spirit of the Messiah and he comes in, then my life is no longer mine, but his.

I become his servant. My life becomes his servant. And now the earthen vessel, this body, this life has its purpose in taking the heavenly treasure around, giving it, yielding it to those nearby who are hungering and thirsting, who are seeking glory, looking for glory.

And there are many such people out there. And all we need to do is share this and give it.

But to do this it costs us something. Every time it costs us something.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed, but not driven to despair. Persecuted, but not forsaken struck down, but not destroyed.



Every time we are afflicted. Every time we are perplexed for his sake, persecuted for his sake, struck down for his sake, the death of Christ is working in us in a way that brings life to somebody around us. Somebody nearby who's looking for his glory.

Marcus Rodriguez, and Rick Klees, and I went into a bar Saturday passing out these little tracts that we write. We went to the back of El Padrino's and as this guy was coming away from the pool table, I offered him a tract and he grunted and looked at me like he wanted to hit me. "What is that?" he said. I said "it's good news about Jesus". He started to move in my direction and as he lifted his fist to prepare to hit me when somebody else came up from behind, at the pool table, and said "let me have one of those". And we were very grateful that he came at that moment. Rick said, "I knew it was coming. It was right there this time".

And there is no guarantee that it wouldn't have happened, that we wouldn't have gotten struck down, but at least that time we got a reprieve. Hostility like that is not pleasant. Who likes that? We don't say "thank you Lord, I got persecuted". We may say it later, but not at the time, not right away.

But whenever hostility like that happens, when persecution happens, there's always somebody who receives a blessing out of it. And I truly believe that this man who stepped in there and kept a fight from breaking out by diffusing the situation, was blessed. This man was blessed. He was touched by the glory of God.

We don't have to make them repeat the four spiritual laws, or the seven steps to salvation, or the sinner's prayer, or this or that or lead them into some program, into some track that we have for them to travel. All we have to do is be there, be there and then give them whatever we have to give them.

Sometimes it's a word. Sometimes it's a prayer. Sometimes it's a touch of healing.

And as we do this, the life of God, the glory of God flows out of the earthen vessel of our own bodies, into the thirsting, earthen vessels out there.



May God give us the grace to follow the example of these wise men, to have the eyes to see the glory that's always wrapped in the earthen vessel.

May God help us to keep seeking and not quit seeking until we see the glory wrapped in the earthen vessel and help us to keep seeing that glory all the time. To help us not to look for the fireworks and the thrills and the chills, but to look for the glory in the earthen vessel, to find it hidden in a field.

May God also help us, having seen it, to open ourselves up to receive it.

May God help us, having received it, to begin to share it, to give it to the ones around us who are hungering and thirsting for something real.

For this is the only treasure that will last.

This is the only treasure that will be here when heaven and earth have passed away.

May God give us eyes to see it. And may he give us the hearts to settle for nothing less.

Message: Richard Bieber 1987, Christmas Eve. Transcribed 2022 by Maranatha Mirror

Link to Audio Sermon: [Heavenly Treasures-Earthen Vessels](#)

Featured Art: All created by Chris Powers at Full of Eyes.

A Link to a beautiful hymn/video created by this artist ["What Child is This"](#)

Prayer- Yes Lord, give us the eyes to see this precious treasure. The eyes and the insight to see it in earthen vessels...wrapped in the ordinary, in humility. Oh, and Lord give us the thirst, the passion to continue seeking it, to continue pursuing it so that it fills us, until we can continually keep our eyes and hearts fixed on your glory. And that glory, that earthen treasure within these weak, earthen vessels become a healing balm, a drawing force to the other earthen vessels all around us. And yes Lord, bring us to the point in which we settle for nothing less. Amen.

Maranatha Mirror



THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

Maranatha Mirror Messages

mmirror.net