

June 23, 2023



# Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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## WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

### An Excerpt From Today's Gospel

*Jesus said to his disciples:*

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal.  
But store up treasures in heaven,  
where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal.  
For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."*

**MATTHEW 6:19-21**

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### Reflection

While Jesus' teaching about what to treasure, or value, is well known to me, today it struck home in a new way. Recently we had to vacate our house so refurbishing could be made. Packing up common "stuff" from the kitchen as

well as my own “stuff” to live off-site was challenging. I ask myself, what do I really value in life? Do I/we need all the treasures of convenience purchased and stored? I am committed to sorting out my possessions.

In this passage, Jesus is telling us that the accumulation of “stuff” in this life is meaningless. Yes, I need items for daily use and survival. Clothes, appliances, technology, etc. wears out, gets destroyed or misplaced, stored, lost, or stolen. The more I have, the more I find that I worry about, care for, protect.

Having too much stuff is certainly a problem, especially when I become ill and pass into the next life. I take nothing with me except the treasures of the heart, such as love, joy, peace, good deeds. I hope to leave a memory in the hearts and minds of people who have loved me, and whom I have loved and served. Owning many things is only a momentary satisfaction in this life, and they are left for someone else to clean out. Kindness and good deeds have a life of their own.

Jesus tells me/us to ***“lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”*** He intended that I/we discover an astounding secret: how joyful giving brings me closer to God and also brings me a lingering sense of pleasure for having shared and/or served another. While thinning out my possessions can be daunting, the satisfaction and freedom in doing so are rewarding.

In summary, the message of this teaching is that worldly goods are helpful -- yet they perish and even get in the way. On the other hand, good deeds have spiritual value that will be revealed over time. Jesus and many who have gone before us have shown us the way to store up treasure of heavenly value and lasting purpose. Rely on God through prayer, reflection, and discernment.

The Beatitudes in Matthew 5 offer a way to proceed.

- Take on the cloak of humility and purity of heart (Matthew 5:5, 8)
  - Hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
  - Choose to act with mercy and compassion (Matthew 5:7)
  - Strive for peace (Matthew 5:9)
  - Be willing to receive persecution for the sake of righteousness (Matthew 5:10)
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Branch and Leaves In Heart Pattern  
Photo by Ekaterina

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**For Pondering**

As I reflect on this passage that is at once practical and inspiring:

- What is its personal invitation and message for me?
  - What is the challenge? What is the grace?
  - What is my heart's lasting treasure?
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