

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Shepherd's Path

**A Shepherd's Personal Devotions**  
**The Best Gift of All – Jesus Series, Lesson 32**

**Lesson Title:** A Treasure to Us

**Take Home Point:** Serve God—it's a gift for him  
and a treasure to us.

## **Warm-Up:**

My family likes to give things to each other. We love the anticipation of Christmas with the exchange of gifts, or birthdays and other special occasions. Or even no occasion at all – just wanting to give. We have thought carefully about what the other family members need or like, and are eager to see the reaction when the gift is opened. Is it because the object is so special or expensive or newsworthy or anything else? Of course not. It's because it brings us joy and happiness to bring someone else joy and happiness. No matter what physical item we give, it is someday going to break, get lost, get taken, deteriorate, or otherwise become nothing. But the memories of giving and receiving in love, the look on a loved one's face, the knowledge of pleasing another, and the feelings associated with those memories, are treasures that no one can take away.

**Read:** Matthew 2:1-12, 6:19-21

## **Observation (What happened?):**

When the Magi came to Jesus, what was the first thing they did? What was the second?

What can and does happen to the things we hoard on earth?

## **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

Why do you think the Magi were so intent on finding the child?

What kind of treasure gets stored in heaven?

## **Insight:**

What are the earthly treasures Jesus speaks of in Matthew 6? Usually, we consider it as physical wealth – stuff we acquire and hoard either for personal satisfaction and security, or for displaying to the world that we are wealthy and so should be treated in a special way. But there are other earthly treasures that can keep our heart from focusing on heaven. Some people put family ahead of everything. Families are important, but they are not eternal. For some, reputation is more important than anything, and so their earthly treasure is what other people think about them. For others, self-gratification comes first. All these are temporary things of earth. What are heavenly treasures? Service to God and others by teaching, encouraging, loving, working without reward, etc. The activity of worship is eternal to God, unbroken from this life into the next. When we give spoken and unspoken witness of God's unlimited grace and rescue through Jesus Christ, that is a treasure to God and others. Giving gifts of earthly wealth to advance God's kingdom is eternal use of temporal things. These are of real eternal value.

## **Application (What does it mean to me?):**

What kind of treasure are you storing in heaven? How do you know?

Pray for the children in your small group not to get too attached to the things of this world.

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