

The Place You Most Want To Be

People always want to belong somewhere. This wanting to belong is innate and it is what builds society and community. People are looking for connection and for identity which is what drives them to want to be part of a group or society. To belong is vitally important and brings a sense of worth and meaning to our existence on earth.

I was inspired by what Shane shared last Sunday when he was doing tithes and offerings when he said where your treasure is there your heart will be also. He mentioned that when you value something you will treasure it and when you treasure it you will put your heart and soul into it. One of the things that struck me was what Shane's pastor said which was this, when you come to worship God how many bring your heart with it or when we come to church we know we are physically here but is our heart here?

Matt 6: 19-24 19-21 "Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

22-23 "Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dark cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

24 "You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both.

I am going to talk about church being the treasure and the place we most want to be and the value of belonging to such a place.

We know church is not the building it is us the people. So where ever people gather in the name of Jesus is the church. When we gather here this is church and when we gather elsewhere that will be church. So it is not the building that defines the church rather it is the people or the children of God that defines the church where God meets with His people.

I like the idea of the pilgrim or the nomads as they do not have fixed abodes but where ever they move to becomes their home. Often we can get fixated by buildings and structures we call church and focus so much on that that we forget the real meaning and the value of the gathered church. The church of God, Gods people coming together is a great place to belong.

3 Things I Want To Focus On:

1. We are first and foremost children of God. *Rom:8:15-17 This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!*

In Matt 6 Jesus mentions the word Father/Papa 11 times showing the significance and importance of that relationship which is the most remarkable and incredible relationship you will ever have. God's resurrection life has touched our lives, His Spirit has touched our spirit confirming who we

really are - Children of God! Isn't this incredible that we who are born with a sinful nature due to Adams sin can come to God the Father through Jesus his son and be joined together with Father in one spirit. (Rom 5:12-21)

Question: "What does it mean to be co-heirs/joint-heirs with Christ or be one spirit?" (Heir -a person legally entitled to the property or rank of another on that person's death.)

Answer: In Romans 8:17 Paul says, "Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." According to this verse, we share in the sufferings of Christ now and will share in the glory of Christ later as His "co-heirs" or "joint-heirs." Gal 4:7 So you are no longer slaves but God's children. Since you are God's children, God has also made you heirs / God gives you the rights of those who are his children.

The term "heirs of God", emphasizes our relationship to God the Father. As His children, we have "an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade . . . kept in heaven" (1 Peter 1:4).

The Greek term translated "heirs" in Romans 8:17 refers to "those who receive their allotted possession by right of sonship." In other words, because God has made us His children... John 1:12 to those who believed, gave them the right to be called sons of God). We have full rights to receive His inheritance. We are His beneficiaries (see Matthew 25:34; Galatians 3:29; Colossians 1:12; 3:24).

2. Have a heavenly mind set - Don't hoard treasure here on earth where it can spoil or be stolen but store up treasure in heaven because that is eternal. Everything we do must point to Christ and everything we do has an eternal significance. The bible tells us '*not to be conformed to this world but to be renewed in our minds*' Rom12:2. i.e. do not get moulded into this world or be influenced by this world. You are *in* the world but not *of* the world. Col 3 tells us to seek those things which are above where Christ is, set your mind on things above not on things on the earth, for you have died to this earthly carnal nature and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

3. Serve God - as much as our children serve us as parents so must we as children of God serve Him. Our priority in life must be to serve the One who is our Father. Everything we do must reflect our Father and His heart and his kingdom. Jesus himself prioritised the kingdom of God. Jesus said '*my food is to do the work of him that sent me and finish his work*' (John 4:34)

- Are we seeking after self or serving self or after a real vibrant relationship with God?
- Are we seeking to serve our Father daily?
- Are we prepared to face the challenges for the sake of following and serving our Father?
- Are we genuinely seeking to serve God or are we simply putting on a Sunday mask so people perceive us as godly when in reality deep in our heart of hearts and in our private life we struggle with fears, temptations desiring the things of the world, desiring man's praise instead of glorifying God.

Jesus directs us to this question and addresses the heart - Where is your treasure? *For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.*

A person's life is a reflection of his heart. That's why scripture in Prov 4:23 tells us to '*guard our heart for it is the well spring of life*'.

Therefore we must guard our hearts and watch over them so that our heart follows hard after the things of God and not be distracted by the things of this world. David was a man who followed hard after God. David said one day in your courts is better than a thousand outside. I long to be in your house to dwell in your courts.

I ask three questions:

- **Where is your treasure?** In asking this we will answer the question “Where is your heart?” Because where your treasure is there your heart will be also.
- **Where is your focus?** What are you focussed on what are your eyes focussed on? Are they focussed on the seen or the unseen?
- **Who or what are you serving?** Jesus was surround by religious people and leaders who looked the part on the outside but who in their hearts were serving money and themselves rather than God.

Jesus is looking at our hearts today. You may be in church but your heart may not be connected to the church - meaning Gods people. When your heart is connected to the church you will prioritise Gods people and they will be your passion and focus.

Here's the good news! You can do something about changing your heart right now by surrendering your life to Jesus and his purpose by dying to your self and selfish lifestyle and embracing the life that Jesus has called you to.

Jesus loves you. He has an amazing plan for your life. Only Jesus can go into those places where it has hurts you most and turn it around for good. Only Jesus can save you from your sin and surround you with His love & his power. He died for you and He rose again from the dead for you. Will you trust Jesus? Will you put your life in his hands?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I acknowledge my sin, I know you died for me to set me free. I repent of all sin in my life and I ask you to forgive me. Be my Lord and Saviour. Amen