**8-4-19**

**Where your Heart is, there is your Treasure!**

**By Rev. Sheryl Stewart**

Eccl. 12: 12-14, 18-23 Col. 3: 1-11 Luke 12:13-21

RR: Psalm 49: 1-12

**Summary: If the results of human effort are worthless, set your desire on the results of God’s efforts. There is our treasure and our life, forevermore.**

In Luke 12: 32-34, just a bit further along past the section we read for today’s lectionary, Jesus says: “You should save your riches in Heaven, for your heart will always be where your treasure is.” This self-evident truth is why Solomon’s philosophy sounds so pessimistic. The last time I preached, I made the point that bothers Solomon so much: no effort of our own can redeem us; salvation is from God alone.

Therefore, Paul urges his friends to set their hearts on the treasures of Heaven rather than the riches of this passing world. Striving to get our share of our grandmother’s inheritance is less gain for us compared to striving to gain our inheritance of Kindness, Compassion, Forgiveness, Gentleness, Humility, Faith, Hope, and Love.

Heaven’s gifts are eternal. If someone takes your gift of forgiveness, what do you do? You forgive them! See, they cannot steal it away. It is like one of my favorite songs: “Love is something, if you give it away, you end up having more!” That little song was right up in the top 10 for the kids at the Woodbridge Developmental Center, right behind “Jesus Loves Me.” I researched the lyrics and found a verse I’d not heard before. It fits my point very well; so, I’ll sing it and you can all join in the chorus. **[sing the song]**

Love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny,  
Hold it tight and you won't have any.   
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many  
They'll roll all over the floor, for:

**Repeat 1st**

Money is dandy and it comes in handy,

But don’t make your treasure your only pleasure

For love is something, if you give it away,

You end up having more!

**Repeat 1st**

So, let's go dancing till the break of day,  
And if there's a piper, we can pay.   
For love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.

For love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.

The inheritance question which the young man asked Jesus in our Gospel reading hits close to home. My father-in-law’s mother left him her fridge and he had planned to give that to my husband, but his brother just came and took it from her estate right after the funeral. It isn’t uncommon for families to fight over the bits they want. When his relative died and his brother took what was meant for him, that young man in the Bible lesson took his complaint straight to the top!

Solomon knew that anything he had would be in the “grandmother’s fridge” situation someday. For all his pessimism, he still urges people to enjoy material blessings; just don’t make them something you set your heart on! Instead, set your hearts on God and make Him your treasure, for God in His love has set His own heart on you!

Where the treasure is, there is the heart and there am I. If you and God are both each other’s treasures, you will remain together forever and inherit each other. This is the good news of the gospel and I encourage you to hold onto that today!