

# THE WORD OF GOD – OUR BASELINE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

## Part 7: The word of God is treasure

Pastor Maselo Mosomane

*“I have not departed from the commandments of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food” Job 23:12*

The word ‘treasure’ is a noun. It may mean different things to different people. When we check it in the dictionary we get something like this; a store of money, gold, jewels etc. There are also many synonyms to describe this word; for example; riches, wealth, fortune, gold, silver jewels and cache. The word means something very valuable.

When used as a verb the word may mean to value; to think or regard something as valuable. You may hear someone say; “I treasure the time I spent at the university.” What the word means in this usage is that this person values the time he spent in the university.

Jesus said in Matthew 6 verse 21; *“for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* Jesus says people follow treasure. People are always in movement following treasure. When the treasure moves, they move as well. A good example is the nomadic lifestyle. A nomad is one or a group of people who do not have a permanent home. They travel about with their livestock looking for food and graze land for their animals. Their lives are determined primarily by resources. They stay in one place as long as there is enough food and grazing for their cattle. As soon as the resources are depleted they move on.

Another example is that of fishermen who spend days, sometimes weeks or even months in the deep seas catching fish. To them fish is treasure. They follow them in the deep rough seas because, to them it represents survival. It is food for their families and business to make profit. When the fish move they move also.

What about miners who spend more or less eight hours per day under the belly of the earth mining precious stones. When the reef changes direction they change direction too. What keeps them so long in such a dangerous place? Well, to some of us the underground world may be dangerous but to them it is treasure. They are there in those deep shafts because of what is to them treasure. It is through this type of work that they put food on the table for their families. It is through this so-called dangerous work environment that

they educate their children and afford basic necessities of life. In a nutshell we can say they are there to chase treasure.

Many of us have moved around the country so much just to lay our hands on what we treasure. Today the economy is busy re-inventing the nomadic lifestyle unnoticed by many of us. We say it is convenient to stay close to one's workplace and it is true. But not only that, it also helps keep the family together. Because of this; we move.

Much as all these motives serve a purpose, the main point we are in constant move is to follow what we treasure. Jesus said; "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Unaware, most movements and decisions are made on the basis of where our treasure is.

But Job defines the word in a different way for us today. He says; "I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job says the word of God is treasure to him; he values it more than food that moves people around. He is saying, when people are moved by what they treasure, he has not departed from his treasure. While 'treasure' keeps people moving, Job's treasure keeps him fixed.

What is your treasure? I know many of us have never thought along this line, but we all have treasures. I have realized that to identify my treasure I need to check what moves me. Jesus says man is persistently moving towards his treasure. It is your treasure that determines your next move. It is your interest that dictates where you are going. We are aware that threats can also move one; but we are confining ourselves to movement to and not movement from. Treasure moves one to; but threats move one from. Treasure moves one to acquire while threats move one to avoid.

You see, when the word of God is our treasure; when the word of God is our interest, our lives will be controlled by the word of God. Our decisions will be based on what God said in His word. You won't decide contrary to what God's word says just because the move you are contemplating will earn you a lot of money, power or respect.

Have you realized that every time you make a decision you are announcing what your treasure is? Jesus says your heart will follow your treasure and you will always follow your heart. Are you aware that the heart that's full of the word of God is a reliable heart to follow? How dangerous it is to follow the heart that is full of the word of this failing world. He who follows this kind of

heart will never experience love, joy and peace in his life but sorrow will pursue him all the time.

The word of God is treasure indeed. May we make up our minds and follow the oracles of God and change our treasure. The word of God is like God Himself. God knows the past the same way He knows the present and the future is not hidden from Him. As a matter of fact; He announces the future before the future comes. His word expresses all He knows. To follow His word is like following the route that leads to one's destiny.