



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 3, Issue 9

Today's Word: mammon

March 11, 2007

Are You:

- Reading Your Scriptures Daily?
- Treating Others Fairly and Kindly?

Today's Scriptures

Matthew 6-7

Next Week:

Lesson 9:

"Take My Yoke Upon You, and Learn of Me"

Matthew 11:28-30;

Matthew 12: 1-13;

Luke 7:36-50

Luke 13: 10-17



Questions to Ponder

- What does it mean that "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"? How can we determine what we treasure?
- How is judging others a sign of hypocrisy?
- Why is it significant that the way to eternal life is narrow, while the way to destruction is broad?

Lesson 9:

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

President Thomas S. Monson:

"When I was a boy I enjoyed reading *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. I also saw adventure movies where several individuals had separate pieces of a well-worn map which led the way to buried treasure if only the pieces could be found and put together.

"I recall listening to a 15-minute radio program each weekday afternoon. The program of which I speak was *Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy*. It began with the jingle, 'Have you tried Wheaties, the best breakfast food in the land?' Then, in a voice filled with mystery, there emanated from the radio the message, 'We now join Jack and Betty as they approach the fabulous secret entry to the elephants' burial ground, where a treasure is concealed. But wait; danger waits on the path ahead.'

"Nothing could tear me away from this program. It was as though I were leading the search for the hidden treasure of precious ivory.

"At another time and in another setting, the Savior of the world spoke of treasure. In his Sermon on the Mount He declared:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and dust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

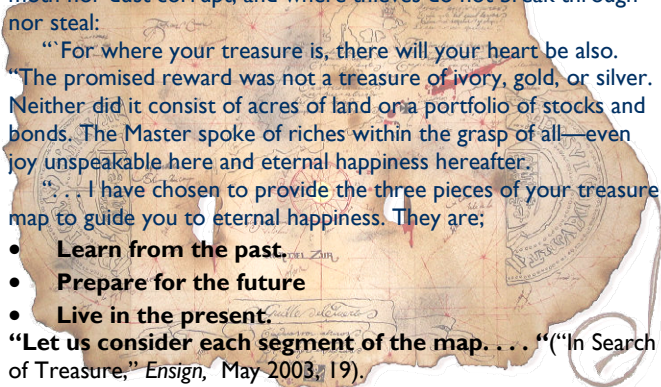
"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor dust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The promised reward was not a treasure of ivory, gold, or silver. Neither did it consist of acres of land or a portfolio of stocks and bonds. The Master spoke of riches within the grasp of all—even joy unspeakable here and eternal happiness hereafter.

"... I have chosen to provide the three pieces of your treasure map to guide you to eternal happiness. They are:

- Learn from the past.
- Prepare for the future
- Live in the present.

"Let us consider each segment of the map. . . ." ("In Search of Treasure," *Ensign*, May 2003, 19).



"The kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven is rarely described as a place or an institution with a distinct set of rules or commandments but instead is most often spoken of as an ideal—particularly a spiritual ideal. If the kingdom is the abstract concept describing the place and economy of God's existence, then its nearness, its coming, and its potential to be inside us are really distinct moral directives or exhortations to align ourselves with God directly but not particularly with any specific institution. Therefore, we should seek to obtain the kingdom of God; as a result, we will make our surroundings conform to what is inside us. The establishment of God's kingdom, therefore, will begin inside the individual rather than from forced conformity from the outside in" (*Jesus Christ and the World of the New Testament*, Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, Eric D. Huntsman, and Thomas A. Wayment, Salt Lake City: Deseret Books, 75).