

WE HAVE A TREASURE CHEST IN HEAVEN

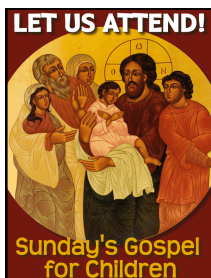
Jesus said, “Listen carefully, I want you to remember this. If someone has hurt you, or stolen something from you, or lied to you, you must forgive them. Why? Because you, too, have done wrong things, and God needs to forgive you. Indeed, God will forgive you, but first, you must forgive those who have done wrong to you.”

Jesus also taught us about fasting. He said, “When you are fasting, do not make a big deal about it, as if you were so very special. Keep quiet about it because the only one who needs to know what you are giving up is your Father in heaven. And when you get to be with Him, He will give you your reward. God wants you to be kind, unselfish, sharing, and caring. You may not find a treasure because of what you do, nor get a big reward for being kind, but in heaven you will. Do the works of God, with kindness in your heart, and your treasure in heaven will be great.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus taught us how to be His disciples, or followers. If someone has done something wrong to us, or is mean to us. What should we do?
2. If we forgive someone who has hurt us, what will God do?
3. God doesn't want us to brag about ourselves, even when we are doing something good, like fasting.
4. God knows when we do good things. Jesus told us we add to our treasure in heaven when we follow what He taught us. What are some ways you have followed what Jesus taught?



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Pre-12



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WE HAVE A TREASURE CHEST IN HEAVEN

One day, our Lord Jesus reminded His followers about some very important things. He said that we need to forgive others when they do something wrong or hurt us. Jesus said that if we forgive others, God will also forgive us when we sin. But if we do not forgive other people, God will not forgive us.

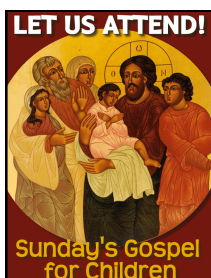
Our Lord also said that when we fast, we should look and act like we usually do. He said that hypocrites (people just pretending to be Godly) show off by how they look and act when they fast. We should not fast so that people see how good we are. We should fast so that God can see that we want to be more like Him.

Then our Lord Jesus said we should not care so much about things we can get here on Earth. The earthly stuff we have can break, get rusty, or someone could steal it. Instead, we should care about heavenly things, which can't break, get rusty, or be stolen. Our Lord reminds us that whatever we care about the most is where our hearts will be.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus taught us how to be His disciples, or followers. What should we do if someone has done something wrong to us, or is mean to us?
2. If we forgive someone who has hurt us, what will God do?
3. God doesn't want us to brag about ourselves, even when we are doing something good, like fasting.
4. God knows when we do good things. Jesus told us we add to our treasure in heaven when we follow what He taught us. What are some ways you have followed Jesus and added treasure in Heaven?



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GOT TREASURE?

The Lord said, “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

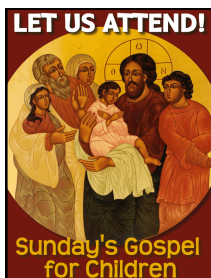
“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What are treasures on earth? What can be destroyed by rust? By moths?
2. What kind of treasures cannot be touched by rust or by moths?
3. What are heavenly treasures?
4. Why would these be more important than things that rust and moths can destroy?
5. What can you do to let go of earthly treasures? To build heavenly treasures?



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GOT TREASURE?

Characters: Narrator, Jesus

Narrator: The Lord said,

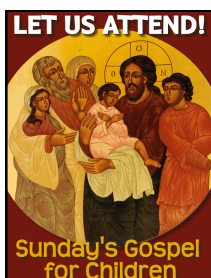
Jesus: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.



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YOU CAN BANK ON IT

The Lord said, “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

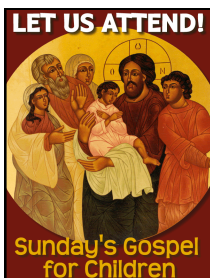
“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why do we need to forgive others?
What do we say about another person by forgiving him or her?
2. Why do we need God's forgiveness?
What does it mean for God to forgive us?
3. How does forgiving others help us remember this?
4. How do you think confession relates to this?
5. What do we do in confession? What does God do?



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TREASURE UNTO AGES OF AGES

The Lord said, “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

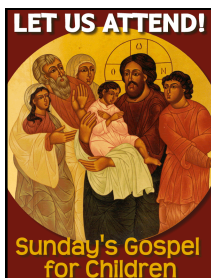
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why talk about forgiveness before fasting? How does fasting help us forgive others?
2. What does the order of this gospel tell us about fasting?
3. What are earthly treasures? How does fasting help us let go of earthly treasures?
4. What are heavenly treasures? How does fasting help us develop these?
5. What is this gospel suggestion to us about Lent?
6. Why do you think we fast during Lent?



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