

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store 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 your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21*

*The podcast today led me in many different directions.*

*The key to me is trying to find a way to be with God and letting go of so many of the material things of this world.*

*Like many people, I spent the early part of my life thinking that joy could be found in the accumulation of wealth and "things." While it's hard to dispute that wealth does make life simpler in some ways, the worship of money never brings meaning to your life. For me, I have found that the more things of which I let go, the better life becomes.*

*When Henry David Thoreau wrote Walden he lived alone in the woods in a home he built himself on the shore of Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. In one portion of his book, he writes about this idea of "where your treasure is." Although he doesn't use this specific phrase, he writes about the possibility of expanding his crops so as to produce more goods so as to make more money. He concludes that in order to do so he would need to add an ox. The cost of keeping the ox would offset the increased revenue from the crops. He writes, "I am wont to think that men are not so much the keepers of herds as herds are the keepers of men, the former are so much the freer."*

*Those things that we think make our lives easier may make them more difficult in the long run. The things that we think make us happy may be keeping us from true joy. In order to live passionately the call of Christ, we may be called to shed some of the things we think are treasures but are actually trash that prevents us from living our passion.*

*What are your treasures? Are they keeping you from living your passion? Are your treasures the keepers of you?*