

Treasures in Heaven

Have you ever wanted something very badly? Something you really hoped for? Something someone else had and you wanted the same?

As a boy, winter was my favorite season. I loved to skate and play hockey. I especially liked to play with the older boys. They were better than I was, and we had fun games. I had to play hard to be included. I often looked at them and wondered how I could be as good as they were. Maybe it was because they had better equipment, I thought. If only I had some official-looking hockey gloves!

Christmas was coming soon. I put hockey gloves on my wish list, but I really didn't think I'd get them. We had a large family and our gifts were mostly practical—a pair of socks, long underwear or maybe a new shirt or pants—nothing like hockey gloves! Yet, I thought, what does it hurt to ask? You can imagine my feelings when I opened my gift on Christmas morning. Inside was a pair of brand-new hockey gloves! They were made of shiny leather, and they fit perfectly! I couldn't wait to try them out. However, I felt a little sheepish—had I asked for too much?

Jesus knows us very well. He knows we sometimes want “earthly treasures.” Jesus teaches, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19). Those brand-new hockey gloves were soon worn out. That kind of treasure doesn't last!

Jesus also teaches, “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal” (Matthew 6:20). The most important treasure we own is the gift of living faith. If we keep faith and a clean conscience by having our sins forgiven, no one can steal it from us. Keep it safely in your heart and it will carry you to heaven. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Now as a grandpa, I sometimes think back to how I was as a boy. I still have hopes and dreams. I often think about the treasure of heaven. What is heaven like? The Bible tells us that it is a beautiful place. I think it's more beautiful than we can even imagine! When we leave from this earth, our sinful minds, our sinful bodies and the devil will be left behind. In heaven we will be given new bodies. Heaven will be a place of peace and eternal rest. I want to make it there.

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Things to Visit About:

1. What kinds of things are earthly treasures?
2. Why do you think God doesn't give us everything we wish for?
3. How do we keep faith and a good conscience?
4. What do you think heavenly treasures might be?
5. Do you know anyone that has gone to heaven? How did they make it there?