

**Subject:** Treasure in Heaven  
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# S<sup>t</sup> Francis



April 27, 2016

## Treasure in Heaven

*Lay up for yourselves  
treasures in heaven  
Matthew 6:20*

### **Relief**

Last week I was driving on Broad Street just west of Richmond when I saw (I assume) a homeless man on the median close to the traffic light.

Another driver came up the turning lane, slowed down, and handed the man a bag lunch (I assume) from a local fast food restaurant. The driver was ready, apparently had planned what to do to help this man get a meal that day, and navigated the traffic on Broad Street to accomplish the task.

The driver offered some much needed relief from hunger. It seems to me this driver was laying up some treasure in heaven. It was a win-win lunch.

### **More Relief**

I have seen activity like this in the places I have worked. Continually donating food and clothing to help others has regularly gone on in the churches where I have served. Every once in a while, however, an obstacle comes up. In one church we were exploring multi-use options for sharing a building with a not-for-profit food bank. Many of us had volunteered often at that particular food bank. There seemed to be a great deal of commitment and compassion surrounding the cause of feeding the hungry.

However, having a food bank in the same building where we worshiped, and having it closer to the places we lived brought objections from a few. For various reasons we never did find a way to share a building with that food bank.

### **More Treasure**

That was just one example of how providing relief is only the beginning of laying up treasure in heaven. Relief must always go on without question.

The situation got me thinking about greater treasure being stored up in heaven, as the passage from Matthew read in Morning Prayer this morning suggests. If relief is the beginning of laying up treasure then how does that treasure grow? Using the example of feeding the hungry, what if further preserving the dignity of those hungry people was a greater treasure? What if the people who received food had gifts, talents, experience, or ideas to overcome the root causes of hunger in their neighborhood or community?

What if laying up treasure in heaven included activating all of the gifts of those around us, especially if those gifts can be woven together to overcome some very dire circumstances? What if all of those gifts come forth in a way that those who have no opportunity for advancement in some way now would have numerous options to follow for their lives? What if relating to those who are hungry, sick, unemployed, . . . are treated as children of God made in the image of God? Would that not be laying up treasure in heaven?

### **One Final Thought**

While I believe and stand on the power of the death and resurrection of Jesus to forgive my sins and send me into new life, so I depend on the

power of the death and resurrection of Jesus to enable me to see and relate to all other people as He would no matter what their present circumstance. Would you ask Him this day to give you that same capacity to lay up that kind of treasure in heaven?

## Coming Attractions

**Saturday, April 30, 2016** Yard Sale 9:00am-3:00pm. Contact Libby at [lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com](mailto:lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com)

**Sunday, May 1, 2016** Worship at 10:00am

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016** Color Me Friends, 6:00pm. Intact Carol at [carolsdream@gmail.com](mailto:carolsdream@gmail.com)

**Sunday, May 8, 2016** Worship at 10:00am (no pot luck this Sunday)

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016**

4pm Vestry Committee meeting

6:30pm Theology on Tap contact Richard at [richardandhdy@yahoo.com](mailto:richardandhdy@yahoo.com)

7:00pm Caregivers' Support Group contact Susan at [sokidd@gmail.com](mailto:sokidd@gmail.com)

***Please bring nonperishable food with you to worship*** to be distributed through the Food pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

*Centerville Circle of Prayer*

Essex Bank, that the employees would lead healthy, prosperous lives, and that the customers of the bank would have lives of solid financial well being.

***Diocese of Virginia***

For the people of Emmanuel (Brook Hill), Richmond; Grace and Holy Trinity, Richmond; Crace (Cismont), Keswick; St. Jon the Baptist, Ivy; Buck Mountain, Earlysville; Grace, Standardsville that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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