

Treasure in Jars of Clay

We are offering a series of reflections for individuals and churches who may be finding it difficult to provide midweek prayer and shared learning from Scripture. You can use these by watching the YouTube video, reading the relevant Bible passage and then reflecting on the questions below. To help make this a shared activity, you are encouraged to reflect on this together with friends using an online conference package, or simply arrange with a friend for them to watch it too. Then ring each other up, share what your thoughts and responses and they pray for one another, and pray together for our world.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-12 & 16-18

Watch the You Tube Video: <https://youtu.be/4iCeOkpf4dQ>

Now spend some time reflecting on “we have this treasure in jars of clay” and then ponder these questions:

What have I got out of perspective? Where have my expectations of others, or my expectations of myself just been unreal? Where do I need to seek God’s grace and forgiveness to just let go? Where do I need to acknowledge that “we are all clay jars”?

What’s bothering me right now? What are you carrying and struggling with in addition to these tough times? Don’t pretend they’re not there; we won’t get through them by ignoring them. Name these things before God; believe that God does not ask you to hide them away. But don’t be consumed by them.

What’s your treasure? Be defined by the treasure. Where have you seen God’s goodness in your life and the lives of others? What do you know about God, what do you know about the Gospel that can sustain you in the tough times?

How can you share that treasure? How can the life of Jesus can be seen in you, so that God’s glory can be seen in you as God’s Spirit works within you? How can you find ways of sharing your faith IN the current circumstances, not despite them?

How can I fix my eyes on eternity? Remember that this is what our faith is all about. Yes, it has to be lived in the here and now, and at times that will be demanding and troubling but seek through God’s Spirit to “fix your eyes on what is unseen” – to “fix your eyes on eternity”

PRAYER

Eternal God, as I acknowledge my own fragility and struggle, help me to focus on the treasure of your love and grace that is within me. Help me to encounter the challenges of this life with courage and honesty, unafraid of seeking your strength and the encouragement of others. Grant me the grace and patience to accept the failings of others; the wisdom to recognise my own shortcomings, and the courage to fix my eyes on eternity, whose hope and promise can never be taken from me. Thank you, that for all my failings, you have chosen for your love and light to reside in me, and may that love and light shine through, even amidst the adversities and challenges that are part of my journey. AMEN