

Treasure in Jars of Clay

June 2-3, 2018

INTRODUCTION: Life Lessons from Mrs. Small

2 Corinthians 4:7 (All verses from the New International Version 1984)
But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Treasure in Jars of Clay

1. Everything you really need, you already have.
- 2 Corinthians 4:7a ***But we have this treasure...***
 - 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 ***5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.***

2. What you have in Christ is enough to overcome life's greatest challenges.

- 2 Corinthians 4:7b **...in jars of clay...**

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 **⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.**

3. What you've been given, you're to share with others.

- 2 Corinthians 4:7c **...to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.**

- 2 Corinthians 4:10-12 **¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.**

CONCLUSION: Legacy Life

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

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Day 1: Read *2 Corinthians 4:7*. God is the source of our treasure. We think life consists of accumulating the stuff; we think the answer to fulfillment is somewhere out there. But it's already in your possession. When does stuff get in the way of following your Savior? Where do you find yourself more driven by greed than grace?

Day 2: Read *2 Corinthians 4:5-6*. The light is not the outside jar of clay, but the glory of Jesus shining through. Think of a challenge or problem you faced (or are facing in life). How is Jesus' light shining through? Where, in the problem, have you found the power of His presence?

Day 3: Read *2 Corinthians 4:7*. Jars of clay would be the least valuable in an ancient Greek or Jewish household. They are considered fragile and easily broken. They are common and ordinary, but with the treasure of Christ at work, you become extraordinary. How have you seen God make the ordinary be extra-ordinary in someone's life? In your own life?

Day 4: Read *2 Corinthians 4:8-9*. Linda Poindexter puts it, “*One small crack does not mean that you are broken, it means that you were put to the test and you didn’t fall apart.*” Paul has his contrasting phrases of life’s problems and God’s possibilities. Which one sticks out for you? How might you describe life’s problems and God’s possibilities at work in your life?

Day 5: Read *2 Corinthians 4:7*. We have been given treasure in jars of clay. Why? The world focuses on the jars of clay. How might you focus (like Paul does) more on the treasure *inside* the jar, *inside* of you?

Day 6: Read *2 Corinthians 4:10-12*. No matter your past, or you present, God desires to give you an incredible future. Jesus came and died for our sins that we might have the treasure of life He brings. How has Jesus’ story of death and resurrection been shared with you recently? What story of God at work in your life can you share with others?

Going Deeper:

Book: *Unexpected: Leave Fear Behind, Move Forward in Faith, Embrace the Adventure* by Christine Caine

Next Week: *2 Corinthians 4:15 “Overflow”*