

Hidden Treasures

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As a young child Henry Parsons Crowell, founder of the Quaker Oats Company, grew up without a father. When he was five years old his father came down with tuberculosis. At that time in the 1860's, it was deadly. When Henry was nine, his father died, leaving him to care for his mother. Henry's uncle was named caretaker by his father to look out for his well being until he would become of age. When Henry was fourteen years old, he had a strong desire to go to college. He asked his uncle about college, however his real concern was for his mother who had it rough since her husband had passed away. As Henry talked to his uncle about going to college, he said that he would surely work to pay for the tuition so that his mother wouldn't feel the burden of sending him to school. Henry's father was a prosperous christian shoemaker before he died, and

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he believed that he should honor God with his wealth. He also believed in looking out for the good of his family. When he found out he had tuberculosis and that his days were numbered he began to save his money for his wife and son so that they would be able to get by without lack when he was gone. As Henry tried to convince his uncle that he would work hard to make sure he went to college, his uncle replied that his father had already made provision for his college education before he died. Henry argued that his mother would need it. His uncle said that his father had stored up enough for his mother and for his son's college tuition. Henry couldn't believe it, as the college that he was interested in was expensive for those days (\$480.00 a semester) and thought that surely he couldn't have saved that much. His uncle told him that his father had stored up



**THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A TREASURE HIDDEN IN A FIELD..
MT:13:44**

\$25,000.00 (a fortune for those days) for Henry, and it was all his on one stipulation, that Henry would follow God and use his money wisely. If he didn't he would lose the privileges. His father had saved up enough to allow him to go to the best college in the area at that time. Once Henry understood what his father had done, he stopped striving and began to use what his father had stored up for him. Henry ended up using what was stored up for him to change many peoples lives. Though he became very prosperous, he learned from his father that it had to be used for Gods glory and, for other people as well. Even to this day, some fifty years after his death, the wealth of Henry Parsons Crowell still impacts the lives of many.

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Hidden treasures

why He has stored up for us as well, treasures and blessings. They're to be used for others. They're not necessarily monetary in form, for the Bible says that we abound in riches in Christ Jesus. (Eph.1:3) That we have all we need for life and godliness, that the riches in Christ are unsurpassable. And they're for every believer. Up to a certain point Henry was ignorant about what he had, but it was always there, waiting for him to come of age. When he did finally see it, he really saw the wisdom and the plan that his father had for him so that he would have all he'd need for life. We, like Henry, need to become aware of what our heavenly Father has done for us as well. He's laid up so many blessings for us that it's possible we'll not even use them all in our life time, unless of course, we become aware of them. Henry's father wanted him to go to Yale, the best college in the land at that time. Would our heavenly Father make less provision for us? I'm not saying that we should all go to Yale (college). As a matter of fact, it's not even a money thing. The riches in Christ are far more reaching than

that. For who can buy forgiveness, redemption, or even sonship in the family of God? Now God wants us to use these riches to meet the needs of the masses. The problem is that many times we don't feel like God has forgiven us, or loves us; He loves others, but He doesn't love me. Ignorance as to what Christ has truly done for us will never change anyone. Henry's wise father put his uncle in charge, to make sure all would go well and to keep an eye on Henry. Likewise the Father has given us the Holy Spirit to show us how to use our riches. The stipulation of making sure he used his money wisely and stayed within integrity speaks exactly of the Spirit's job: to lead us into ways that will produce the most God glorifying results.

Another example of treasures being laid up is illustrated in 1 Chronicles 29, where king David stores up an abundance of wealth for his son Solomon to build the temple. 1Chron. 28:11&12a says, "then David handed his son Solomon the plans for the porch and the temple structure, it's treasuries, upper rooms, inner rooms and the place for the mercy seat. The plans, moreover, included all that came by the spirit." Then chapter 29:3 says "because of my deep interest in my God's temple, I have, over and beyond all I have provided for the sacred temple, a private treasure of gold

and silver, which I have designated for the temple of my God: 393,000 pounds of gold of the kind that comes from Ophir and 815,000 pounds of refined silver.." Then David went on to take up an offering, raising 655,000 pounds, plus 50,000 dollars worth of gold, plus 1,164,000. pounds of silver. Plus other things as well; all for the provision of the temple. The example we see here is that first King David gave his son the plans that were inspired by the Spirit for the temple, the work of God. That would be Solomon's ministry. Then we see him making all the provisions necessary for him to be able to start the project and bring it to completion. David made sure by his own sacrifices that his son would have more than enough to complete the plan. David stored up a vast treasure for his sons ministry because his heart was in it. The Lord has also given us a ministry and will not hold anything back because he believes in it and wants to see it come to completion.

Another example of God providing for us is found in Matt.22. "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, "Tell those who



Hidden Treasures

have been invited that I have prepared my dinner; My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' But they paid no attention and went off, one to his field, another to his business.-Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told his attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot and throw him outside' Mt.22:1-13 In the parable of the wedding feast, the Father tells his servants to go out and compel people to come in, even force them in. Then when he comes into the party he sees a man without wedding garments and has the man expelled. It has always been strange to me that He had the servants force them to come in and then kicks one out for not being properly dressed. It can only mean that God was also the one to provide the wedding clothes fit for His Sons' wedding feast. Clothes, being

righteousness, God provides all for us to be able to properly come. The clothes He provides are up to His standard, not ours. First He calls us to himself and then He provides access to be able to come. The man who didn't come in with the wedding clothes freely provided to him looked so out of place in comparison to the clothes provided for Him. He could not respond because his garments could not measure up to the ones provided him. God's not looking to kick anyone out of His kingdom or keep anyone away, but He stresses that the guests will be there on His terms; not man's feeble religious attempts to be righteous.

We recently had a situation down here with a brother who had fallen into sin. He was convinced that God couldn't forgive him. Although we gave him chapter and verse and example after example, we couldn't get him to see. His feelings were completely in control, (actually out of control and unreliable). He wasn't taking the Word of God or any of His provision or His promises into consideration. It's a sad state when a Christian is unaware, or even worse, refuses to believe the provision that has been laid up to their account. It makes the struggle, of what religions are made of, an unwinnable battle. It becomes a battlefield in the devil's arena, instead of Gods.

If we fight the devil on his terms, we're goners. Yet even God says we shouldn't consider that. Fight the devil in God's arena and you are sure to win. Many Christians see life like mountain climbing; you keep going until you reach the top, as opposed to defending your position. In Christ, you've been placed on top of the mountain and told to defend it with all the provision that God has given you. We're not trying to attain anything that's been done by Jesus, we defend and maintain. All this we know in our head, like my friend knew as well, except when it applied to him. He insisted that he violated the covenant and there was nothing left for him. Although he knew God gave him righteousness, really, he strived to present God his own righteousness, which failed.

We notice that in the garden of Eden, God's job description to Adam was one of maintaining what He (God) had created. When Adam fell, it was a different story. In the new creation we are also given the job of maintaining what God has done in and for us. Trouble starts when we operate outside of that realm. When David fought Goliath, Saul tried to give him his armor but it didn't work because David hadn't tried it out. David wasn't going to fight



Hidden Treasures

Goliath on warriors terms but on God's terms. That was the world's system. David was on God's system which was by faith and he took down the giant. That was the armor he had tried out.

I remember I saw a movie once called "Schindler's List" (I'm not endorsing the film). Schindler was a wealthy man who used his wealth to buy Jews out of the concentration camps during the holocaust in the second world war. Towards the end of the film, the war was over and he was leaving the Jews he had

bought from destruction, when he looked on his hand to see a gold ring. Great remorse grew in his heart as he thought that if he'd only been more conscious of it earlier, it could have bought another soul from the fiery grave of the camps. All of a sudden all his earthly possessions became of no value to him, because he saw how he could have used them for others; to buy their freedom and save them as well. But now it was too late. He was angry with himself for esteeming personal riches over people and he became inconsolable. Recently a

friend who sells perfume, (something like Avon) showed us her catalog of perfumes and told us that they smelled very nice. Next to the pictures of the various perfumes were the prices. If we were willing to take her word for it and pay the price, in a short while our order would come in and we'd be satisfied. I told her that if she would take our word for it and grab a hold of the Bible and pay the price it asked to abide in Christ, she would be guaranteed to be eternally satisfied. The Bible is a huge catalog filled with great treasures and promises, that if we are will

