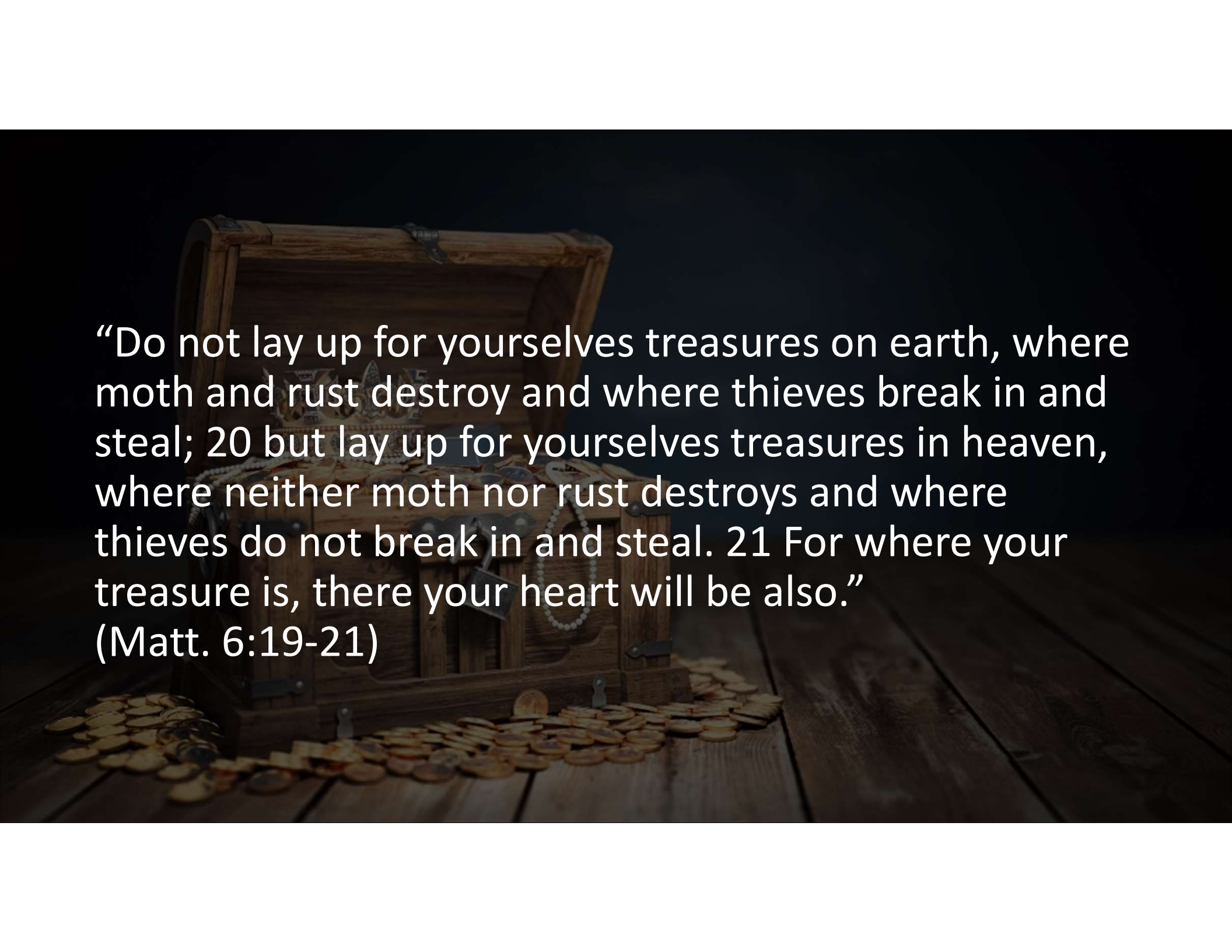



A large, ornate, heart-shaped metal clasp, possibly made of brass or copper, with a weathered, patinated surface. It features a central horizontal leather strap with metal rivets. The clasp is mounted on a light-colored wooden surface with a vertical grain. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Securing Your Treasures

1st Sunday of the Great Fast



“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
(Matt. 6:19-21)



What are
“treasures”?

- Where do we place our trust with those things that are valuable?
 - Stability, security, value, freedom, peace, joy
- God desires that we find fulfillment in Him and through Him



Realities of Treasures

1. Our treasures tell us where and who we really are.
- “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt. 6:21)

Realities of Treasures



2. Our treasure can be stolen and/or corruption.
 - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal..." (Matt. 6:19)
 - Corruption
 - Parable of the Talents
 - "So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest." (Matt. 25:27)
 - Stolen

Who are the thieves?

- Satan and his agents
- Ruler of this world
 - "...the ruler of this world will be cast out." (Jn. 12:37)
- He is a Liar
 - "...he is a liar and the father of it." (Jn. 8:45)
- Thief
 - "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." (Jn. 10:10)

How does they intrude?



- The eyes
 - EX: Achan the son of Carmi
 - EX: Eve
 - “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.”
(Gen. 3:6)

How does they intrude?



- **The mind (reason)**
- “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.” (Jn. 6:53-56)
- “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” (Jn. 6:60)
- “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” (Jn. 6:66-67)

How does they intrude?

- The void in my life
 - Affection
 - Companionship
 - Loneliness
 - Lack of security
 - “Happiness”
- Appeal to my emotions

Securing my treasure

- **Stability**
- "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." (Matt. 7:24)
- **Security**
- "Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals..." (Lk. 10:3-4)
- Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Lk. 10:17-20)

Securing my treasure

- **Value**
- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
(Jn. 3:16)
- **Freedom**
- "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."(Lk. 4:18)

Securing my treasure

- **Peace**
- “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.” (Jn. 14:27)
- **Joy**
- “Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.” (Jn. 16:22)