



Scripture nugget - Heaven is a real place we can touch

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be (Matthew 6:19-21).

In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? (John 14:2). From the mouth of our Lord, we learn that heaven is a real place where we will dwell. Scripture says the streets of heaven are paved with gold! *The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made from a single pearl; and the street of the city was of pure gold, transparent as glass (Revelation 21:21).* Heaven is a real, physical place we can actually see and touch. It is not an abstract concept as some people erroneously thought. There is an instructive story that goes like this: A man died after living a life which he thought was good. He never did anything really bad. He lived a very comfortable life in a big house and assumed it would be the same when he went to heaven. When he arrived in heaven, an angel brought him to the house God prepared for him. They were heading towards some big beautiful mansions similar to his on earth. He thought, "That white one must be mine." However, they passed it and headed towards a little wooden hut at the end of the road. In shock, he turned to the angel and said, "This is not meant for me, is it?" However, the angel sadly confirmed that it was as they could only prepare with whatever materials sent from earth. The angel told him that God, on the scales of justice, found him wanting in obedience to the Commandments, good deeds, prayers, sacrifices and penance. It was his sincere repentance that saved him.

But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal (Matthew 6:20). The crowds were eagerly looking out for Jesus after they had their fill of free bread and fish after Jesus did the multiplication of the bread and fishes. Jesus knew they were looking for more free food. *Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for Me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."(John 6:26-27).* Jesus is telling us that instead of focusing on earthly things, we should be hungry for the things of heaven which endure forever. *For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be (Matthew 6:21).* If our hearts are fixated on this earth, then we will try to store up earthly treasures that will rust and rot away.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, purify my heart from all earthly bondages. I am only on pilgrimage through this earthly life. Let me not be distracted by this earth's false lights. Be enthroned in my heart so that my heart is set on heaven for which I am born. Give me docility and obedience in faith to adhere to Your Commandments, and the wisdom to discern Your plan for my life. Thus, may I be prepared at any time should You call me to my true home where I will see Your glory with unveiled eyes and become like You! *I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us (Romans 8:18).* Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.