

TREASURES NEW AND OLD

Introduction: Discovering treasures new and old as we all obey our Lord's command to love one another, e.g. across all ages, grandparents to children and grandchildren.

- + Love one another - John 13:34; 15:12, 17; Romans 12:10; 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 5
- + Serve one another - Galatians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5
- + Accept one another - Romans 15:7
- + Strengthen one another - Romans 14:19
- + Help one another - Hebrews 3:13; 10:24
- + Encourage one another - Hebrews 10:25
- + Forgive one another - Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13
- + Submit to one another - Ephesians 5:21
- + Carry one another's burdens - Galatians 6:2
- + Be tolerant with one another - Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13
- + Be concerned for one another - Hebrews 10:24
- + Be kind and tender hearted to one another - Ephesians 4:32

Two quick, simple ways to do that in a life group, home group, any group.

1. In pairs or threes, say what you appreciate or admire about the other person.
2. Pray a blessing for the other person (many of you will get an inspired word).

Treasures New and Old

He said to them, 'Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.' (Matthew 13:52 NIV)

The Amplified Version calls those treasures the fresh as well as the familiar.

Jesus is the best example of revealing both new and old treasures, as shown in the rest of the passage from Matthew 13:53-58.

The Old Transformed

Jesus knew the old and familiar better than anyone and constantly demonstrated the new fresh treasures of the kingdom, fulfilling and completing the old in Himself.

Prayer. The Old Testament is full of examples and commands to pray (2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 33:3). Jesus taught us to pray from the heart, not just lots of words (Matthew 6:5-15) because God already knows all we need.

The **Ten Commandments** were familiar but Jesus gave them fresh new meaning and fulfilled them, as in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:17-48). Jesus loved the rich young ruler who had obeyed all the commandments from his youth, but challenged him to forsake everything and take up his cross and follow Jesus (Mark 10:17-22).

The familiar **Psalm 23** has fresh meaning when we see it fulfilled in Jesus: *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"* (John 10:11)

Jesus fulfilled the **Servant Songs** in Isaiah (Isaiah 42:1-4; Isaiah 49:1-6; Isaiah 50:4-11; Isaiah 52:13-53:12) giving them dramatic new meaning. The Ethiopian officer in charge of the Queen's treasury found Jesus in Isaiah 53 and was baptised (Acts 8:26-40).

Jesus gave new meaning to the familiar passage in Isaiah 61:1-2 in His home village in the synagogue at Nazareth after His baptism in water and in the Spirit. He declared and demonstrated it.

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' (Luke 4:18-19 NIV)

Jesus declared and demonstrated God's kingdom. He still does, including in and through us. That's in the Riverlife mission statement: "We are a family embracing the Father's presence, releasing empowered people who declare and demonstrate Christ's kingdom."

The New Transforming Us

Faith in Jesus and faith in God transforms us. God's Spirit is with us and within us to enable us to demonstrate Christ's Kingdom. Even Jesus said, *"By myself I can do nothing"* (John 5:30).

People in Nazareth found it hard to believe in God's power in Jesus. They saw Him as the local carpenter, not as God's Son. Matthew and Mark tell how amazed Jesus was at their unbelief. Luke tells us how furious the people were (Matthew 13:54-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:16-30).

The Gospels record two times when Jesus was amazed. This was one. He was amazed at their lack of faith, their unbelief. Their unbelief prevented Him from doing mighty miracles (Matthew 13:58; Mark 6:6). In contrast, Jesus was amazed by the faith He saw in a Gentile centurion who understood authority: *"Just say the word, and my servant will be healed"* (Matthew 8:10; Luke 7:9).

Biblical and Current Examples

1. **Jerusalem** – Acts 2. Filled with the Spirit in a prayer meeting. *Example:* Prayer meeting on Elcho Island led to revival in Australia.
2. **Samaria** – Acts 8. Leaders prayed for believers to receive God's Spirit. *Example:* Solomon Island pastors prayed for Enga Baptist pastors and revival spread.
3. **Damascus** – Acts 9. A believer prayed for a new convert to be filled with the Spirit and healed. *Example:* South Pacific Law students were prayed for and became involved in revival mission.
4. **Caesarea** – Acts 10. Filled with the Spirit in a meeting during preaching. *Example:* Solomon Islands youth filled and empowered in national conference.
5. **Ephesus** – Acts 19. Twelve people baptised and prayed for and filled with God's Spirit. *Example:* A friend baptised in water and Spirit-filled.

We can, and need to respond in faith and glad obedience (e.g. expectant, obedient dog wagging its tail).

We too can pray, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24). That's our way into blessing, and to bless others in the power of God's Spirit.

Here's a comment from the Introduction to *The Life of Jesus* (free PDF on renewaljournal.com). A trinity of three physical metaphors helps me to be constantly aware of, and grateful for, God's presence with us always:

1. Light surrounds you. By it you can read this. The sun always shines, even when it's hidden from us. Light shines around us though we may be unaware of it. God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. We can live in His light.

2. Blood pumps through your body right now, cleansing and healing. We may be unaware of it until reactions like alarm alert us to our beating heart. Jesus' blood cleanses from all sin, always. We can trust Him for He is with us.
3. We may breathe without being aware of it, or we can be aware and take deep breaths, as you may have done just now! Breath purifies our lungs and body. God is Spirit and like breath or fresh breeze, He can purify us.

A prayer, from the Preface to *The Life of Jesus* (free on renewaljournal.com).

*Thank you Lord for all you've done. Forgive me for any wrong in my life.
I trust in you and give my life to you.*

Discussion Questions

1. What Old Testament treasures especially inspire or encourage you?
Examples: Psalm 23; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 33:3
2. What Old Testament treasures really challenge you? Examples: Exodus 20; Psalm 51
3. What New Testament treasures especially inspire or encourage you?
Examples: John 3:16-18; Luke 11:9-13
4. What New Testament treasures really challenge you? Examples: 1 John 3:16-18; John 7:37-39
5. What old or familiar traditions do you still appreciate? Examples: Psalms; hymns
6. What new or fresh traditions do you really appreciate? Examples: Scripture in Song; using spiritual gifts
7. What does being filled with the Spirit mean for you? Examples: Luke 4:14-30; Ephesians 5:18-20

Resources

- *The Life of Jesus*: free postcards and bookmarks at the Info Desk in the foyer.
- *Renewal Journal* (renewaljournal.com): free PDF books and blogs on renewal and revival.
- *God's Surprises* (renewaljournal.com): Brief reports of mission trips in 20 countries.
- *Facebook albums* ([facebook.com/geoff.waugh1](https://www.facebook.com/geoff.waugh1)): photo albums of Great Commission mission trips, serving others and encouraging renewal and revival.
- Books in the foyer for \$10 (or more) donation to Riverlife mission, ed Schoolies.