

PRECIOUS TREASURE

Discussion Questions

What is the "precious treasure," and why is it precious?

The "precious treasure" is an allegory for one's heart and purity – the verse I had in mind when writing the film was Proverbs 4:23 "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." Every person only gets one chance at life, one heart to keep pure and to eventually give away to the person God brings for marriage. A lot of times today, even if they remain physically pure, young people end up giving their hearts away over and over, which results in much avoidable pain and heartbreak.

Scripture look-up: Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 5:8

How can the treasure be powerful or dangerous?

God has put into every person a natural desire to love and be loved. However, when this natural desire is not placed in the context of God's plan and will, it can become a strong temptation for young people to open up their hearts to anyone.

A lot of times, guys and girls don't realize how much power they possess over each other. When a girl opens her heart for a guy to see, in a sense, she's giving him power over herself. Since it's a natural desire for a guy to be able to win a girl's heart, she also wields power over him, since by opening her heart she is attracting him to it.

When in the context of God's plan for our lives, it's a very good and right thing for young man and woman to win each other's hearts and eventually give them to each other in marriage. But it's very easy for the heart to become a dangerous weapon of heartbreak – and thus, it must be protected and used wisely.

How can the treasure be protected?

The very best way the treasure of the heart can be protected is by giving it to Jesus Christ. He's the One who created it anyway, so it's really His to begin with!

One of the most important ways God has put into place for the protection of the heart comes from parents. God has given them the responsibility of protecting their hearts, raising and training their children with the wisdom from God's Word. When parents are following God's will and Word, and children allow their parents to keep their proper role of authority and protection, the love stories that are written are the most beautiful.

Sometimes, young people don't have parents that are fulfilling their God-given responsibility. It makes it hard, but that doesn't mean that a young person can't surround himself or herself with godly older men and women who *are* following God's will and wisdom.

And of course, there are times when parents or godly people aren't around for support. That's when self-discipline comes in. When a young person has trained himself or herself to stand firm in God's plan for keeping their hearts pure, they have a solid foundation on which to rest.

How does the treasure get damaged?

Our hearts can be hurt in so many ways. Pain can come from expectations that aren't met, giving a heart away before it's time, not keeping a commitment to physical and mental purity. In our culture, it's so easy for an exposed heart to be broken – therefore, it's all the more crucial to keep it protected.

Can a damaged treasure be repaired?

Forgiveness, restoration, and healing are beautiful things. Through Christ, anyone who has a damaged heart tainted by impurity can live in Him, dead to the past. He says that whoever is in Christ is a new creation!

Of course, this truth doesn't mean that we'll never feel the pain of the past, or remember what's been done. But through being forgiven by Christ, living in His power and strength, and being quick to forgive others, one can live free from the chains and guilt of the past.

Scripture Look-up: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21