

Treasure Trove (Life is like a Box)

Isn't it wonderful, how a thought develops from one thing to another. I woke up this morning and immediately I had the word 'box' come to my mind. As I questioned myself to why I was thinking 'box' it had already developed to the word 'chest'. From there my thoughts drifted to thinking about Robert Louis Stevenson's book, *Treasure Island*. I loved this book when I was a kid, like all great swashbuckling pirate stories, it has all the important elements that keep you riveted to what is, a wonderful tale. It has the Map, the Voyage to where the treasure may be hidden, and of course the famous Treasure Chest with its contents - the Priceless Treasure.



This set me thinking about the importance of the treasure and its chest that crops up in all good pirate stories. It set me thinking about the relationship between the box, (the chest) and its precious contents.

Men, (pirates) would travel the seven seas in search of this chest, that they may lay claim to its contents. They of course would have to have a map. They needed some direction and inspiration to where they may find this treasure chest and of course the map provided this.

Why would they want to go to such immense lengths and travel the globe to find this chest? Well obviously they knew that if they could lay their hands on it, they would be made for life. They would have riches untold, and all their problems would be over. They would be rich men.

Of course they were not really interested in the chest, only its contents, but the chest was also important as it had to be found, for without a chest there would be no treasure. So whilst the treasure was their goal, the chest played a very important role, as it was the very container that carried within it, all their hopes and dreams.

The treasure chest, the box itself, in a way becomes almost as important as the treasure. They seem to go hand in hand. Going hunting for treasure, is not as romantic as going to hunt for a treasure 'chest'.

How important *is* the chest. Of itself it could be a very ornate box, covered in fancy fittings and locks, and made from good old solid English oak, or on the other hand it could be just a plain old pine box with a simple lid and hasp latch. The thing is, it

doesn't really matter what type of box the chest is, its importance is drawn from that which it contains, the treasure, and whether the chest is an ornate one or a basic simple box, both types are equally important, because of the contents.

What would the pirates do with the chest, if to their horror they found it to be empty and void of any treasure. I'm sure they would just discard it, or even perhaps burn it, and sit warming themselves around the fire, as the sparks from the wood leap up on the hot air currents. The chest was only important whilst it contained the treasure. The chest gained its validity because of its contents, and whilst the treasure and the box were united, the relationship between the two was sound: but of course once the treasure has gone, the box loses its importance, and almost becomes a worthless piece of junk. After all, at the end of the day, it is only a box.

Now I know a box is inanimate, and does not have emotions and thoughts, but just imagine for a moment, should we endow our chest with these human qualities. How different must the chest feel when it is empty, compared to how it would feel knowing that it contained such priceless treasure. For when it is empty it rightly feels it has no worth, but if it is full of treasure, well, it would draw its identity from its contents, and would no longer be saying, "Oh me, I'm just yet another chest". Oh no, it would be proudly saying, "Me? Oh I'm a Treasure Chest". There is a vast difference between being a mere empty vessel, to being a container of that which men desire above all else – to be rich.

Would you be rich? Would you, like the pirates, have your worries and fears laid to rest, that your discovery set you free from the concerns of this world?

The map is here, all around you. You know the way. Seek it, ask for it, get it, that you may be led on the voyage of discovery, that you too may lay claim to the treasure. You need not look too far to find the chest, the box. YOU are it. But how much more will you be, when you open up and find the priceless treasure within.

Do you not know that Christ is in YOU? You will never ever find so great a treasure as discovering your true content and therefore your true worth.

There is a fairly modern saying that does the rounds these days. I hear people say, "You need to think outside the box". Well I would say, don't waste your time. There is nothing of any true lasting worth 'outside the box'. Think within the box, the Treasure cannot be found 'outside' of the box. Look within, that's where the Treasure is.

2Cr 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Happy seeking voyager, as you travel your seven seas of life to discover your Treasure Island.