

## IGNITE: Where Your Heart is...

### *Merciful Abundance*

Matthew 6:19-21

- i. Every now and then we all need a little *teshuva* in the right direction to get us going.
- ii. Rockets, furnaces, cars, ideas and people need to be ignited once in a while
- iii. Then there is this text today. How do we talk about it as good news? It seems like another do this and don't do that kinda thing.
- iv. The images invite us into the text for a conversation:
  - a. Moth
  - b. Rust
  - c. Thieves break in and steal

LET'S LOOK AT THESE THREE VERSES AS A THREE-STEP JOURNEY TODAY....

#### I. THE WAY OF SCARCITY

- a. Most of us probably live here.
- b. Do I have enough?
- c. How much is enough? There is never enough and I have to sacrifice.
- d. Did you see the newly discovered mummy with a gold tongue-so they would have means in the afterlife?
- e. The meaning of storing up treasures on earth.
- f. Wall Street Journal columnist wrote a book about the ultrarich in America called *Richistan* in 2007. WW Bubar in *Feasting on the Gospels*.
- g. The result is high anxiety.

#### II. THE WAY OF MERCY PROVIDES US THE CANOPY

- a. Matthew is writing to a Jewish audience where the overarching theme is community and religious life is mercy.
- b. Notice in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy." Mt 5:7
- c. On the opposite end of the spectrum is the Woes section in Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You tithe...but neglect weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith."
- d. In between these two is Jesus' instruction, Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" (9:13).
- e. Perhaps the way to read these three verses is under the larger canopy of mercy and not dualism or delayed gratification for end times.
- f. The result is freedom from anxiety.

#### III. THE WAY OF MERCIFUL ABUNDANCE

- a. In the way of mercy, there is always enough, and one can live freely and generously with hope.

- b. Why is this good news? Because in scarcity there is never enough, *Richistan*. In mercy there is always enough.
- c. We are free to live in the abundance of god's gracious provision right now and be open to the needs of the other.
- d. Consider Oseola McCarty and here story of merciful abundance.