

Remember the treasure you are

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I know a number of people who are big into yard sales. They believe that one person's trash is another person's treasure. I believe it. The Clewiston Garden Club had its annual rummage sale last Saturday – you should have seen the treasures they had! Even more, you should have seen the way people snatched up some of those treasures!

I shouldn't talk. Many times in my childhood I gleaned treasures from the neighbors' trash pile because I figured I could find some use for that perfectly good "stuff" they were tossing out. There were times that I found treasures that we kept for months before my dad sneaked them back out for the garbage collector to pick up.

It's hard for me to throw things away, because I always get to thinking that some day I will have a need for that particular item. But it can get extreme. I recently went into our garage and found things I had forgotten we had and others that I hadn't used for years. Sometimes I get a little envious of those who have a philosophy that if it hasn't been used in a year, they need to get rid of it. If it hasn't been missed, it's going out the door. If there is no current use for it, it's gone. It is good that some groups have rummage sales, because it is an inspiration for me to clean out the closets of things I don't need or use anymore.

These scenarios are also played out in our relationships. There are those who look at life in a way that they never want to throw away or give up much of anything. If they aren't careful, they might find that friendships and relationships are neglected or sacrificed when their lives become full of clutter and activities. Sometimes these relationships are even forgotten.

On the other side, there are those who want to dump a relationship at the first sign of trouble figuring them a waste of time. If they have no use for it, then it's gone.

In reality, most of us know someone, maybe a friend, a family member, or a colleague at work, who might be thinking that his or her life is useless or of no worth because to them, no one cares. Maybe they have been dumped on, maybe they just feel like trash because they feel they have been forgotten or aren't worth the effort. Fortunately for us, God figures that each person is worth the effort. God doesn't throw people away and He doesn't forget about us. According to God, everyone is a treasure. And yes, believe it or not, God does go through the trash piles of life looking for those of us who have been trashed or discarded, giving the promise of restoration and new life. God doesn't see the trash; He sees the potential of treasure. Even more, God literally makes treasures out of trash. Many times, we are the instrument God uses to make this transformation possible. In the book of Genesis we are told that we were created in His image and God did the creating. God created us to live in close relationship with Him - not just to know about Him. If you have any doubts about how far He would go for you or how much He cares for you and wants to be in relationship with you, remember what the Bible says happened six hours one Friday in the book of John.

God laid down His life for all of us because He loves all of us. God doesn't make junk; so let's not live junky lives. God makes treasures. Remember the treasure that you are. Share it with others.