2 Corinthians 12:1-10

What do you treasure?

* Such a treasure: visions of grandeur, 1-4
  + Who would you accept?
    - I will go on boasting, 1
    - You gain nothing by pointing to yourself
  + Something special
    - I know a man in Christ, 2
    - Caught up to the 3rd Heaven, paradise, 2-3
    - It was unspeakably good, 4
    - Is this what you *need*?
* Recognition of treasure: sell everything. 5-8
  + Where does your strength lie?
    - I will not boast, except of my weaknesses, 5
      * Good and true things may not be ultimate things. To whom does it point? 5-6
    - Don’t think too much of a person, 6b
  + Trials of life
    - To keep me from becoming conceited, 7
    - A thorn (spike) in the flesh
    - Was given: Divine agency. Sovereignty.
    - Satan is at work too. A demonic deputy. (Job)
    - To harass (buffet, beat, strike in the face)
    - Three times I pleaded with the Lord, 8
  + Matthew 13:44. “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”
* Real treasure: Christ Alone. 9-10
  + Enough
    - Christ’s Grace is sufficient for you, 9
    - Christ’s Power is made perfect in weakness
    - I will boast of my weaknesses
    - I am content with weaknesses, 10
    - When I am weak [my resources], I am strong [Christ’s resources]
  + Implications
    - Status: in Christ
    - Success: by Christ
    - Destiny: with Christ
    - Possession: is Christ

Discussion Questions:

* List the top 3 things that our culture values. List the top three things that the American church values. List the top 3 things that you value.
* How might God, in His love, be weakening you to your own resources? Where are you tempted to rely on yourself rather than Christ?
* Why do you struggle with discontentment? What does that reveal to you about your treasure?
* What would it look like for you to “sell all” and “buy the field” (Mt 13:44-46)? In terms of your relationships? In terms of your health? In terms of your resources?