

What a Strange Question

One day when Jesus was leaving the temple with His disciples, one of them made a seemingly insignificant observation. He said to Jesus, “Look teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” Jesus responded with a strange question, “Do you see all these great buildings? Not one stone here will be left on another, every one will be thrown down.” That is where the text ends. Not another word is said about this conversation in Mark 13.

“Do you see all these great buildings” is a strange question because the disciple had just drawn Jesus’ attention to the buildings. Of course he sees them. He is the one that pointed them out. The reason Jesus asked the question is because the disciple was looking at the wrong things. Just before leaving the temple that day Jesus saw something that all the disciples missed. While the rich were dropping their large amounts of money into the treasury a poor widow dropped in only a few pennies. No one even noticed, except Jesus. He called His disciples together and made the statement that this poor widow gave more than all of the rich people with their bags of money. Her contribution exhibited faith, while all the others just gave out of their wealth. Jesus was pointing out to His disciples what was eternally important and what was just temporary. Living by faith even the smallest of ways is more important than beautiful construction.

One day at basketball practice at York College while I was playing defense my coach blew his whistle and yelled, “TREAT! You’re looking but you’re not seeing!” (He called me by my last name Treat because he said that he didn’t want to waste time saying my two syllable first name, Phillip). His statement confused me. How can you look but not see? Coach was making the point that my eyes were open but my brain was not comprehending what was really going on, what was most important. The apostle Paul put it a different way.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Paul and Jesus were both saying that we should focus on the things in our lives that are eternally important and not waste our energy on the things that will pass. To this day I’m still not sure what my coach was trying to tell me.

Phillip

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SUNDAY SCHOOL



For ALL Ages

June 28, 2026

You are Welcomed Here

Eastern Hills Church of Christ
2705 E Travis St
Marshall, TX

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Worship 10:30,

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Devo & Bible Classes at 6:30

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