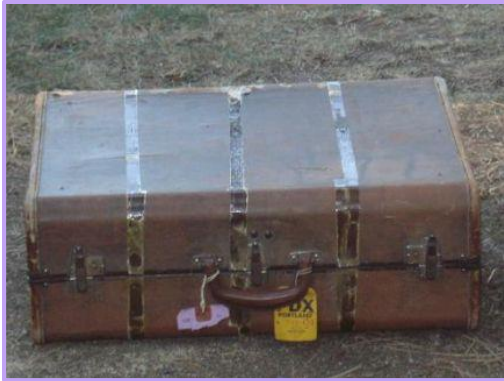


The Gold Piece in the Suitcase

A preacher and his family were on vacation traveling down the highway when they saw a suitcase fly off the top of a car going in the opposite direction.



They stopped to pick it up, but the driver of the other car never stopped, not realizing what he had lost.

The only clue to the driver's identity was a \$20 gold piece inscribed: *Given to Otis Sampson at his retirement by Portland Cement Company.*

After extensive correspondence, Otis Sampson was located and contacted. He wrote a letter telling the preacher to discard the suitcase and all of its contents, and send him only the gold piece.

Sampson used the phrase "my most precious possession" several times to describe the gold piece.

The pastor sent the gold piece to Sampson, and wrote a letter to accompany it, telling Sampson about his most prized possession – Jesus Christ, His life, death on a cross, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

A year later, the pastor received a Christmas package. In it was the \$20 gold piece. Sampson wrote: "You will be happy to know we have become active members of a church. We want you to have this gold piece. I am 74; my wife is 72. You were the first one to tell us about Jesus. Now He is our most prized possession."

Some observations from this story:

1. God is constantly pursuing us, drawing us to Him. The suitcase flying off the top of Sampson's car was no accident.
2. We believers should take the opportunity to share our faith in our Lord. Eternity for some soul may depend on it.
3. The question also arises: What is *my* most prized possession? If Jesus is not in our lives, we should invite him in. And if we are a believer, is He our priority? He wants to be. And when He is, all other areas of our lives take their rightful place.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter