



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Worthy: God Values Us”

Ps. James Lowe – Nov. 16, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- As a child what was one of your favorite possessions?
- As an adult what has been one of your favorite possessions?
- What was the most valuable thing you've ever lost? Did you find it again? If so, how did you feel?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org/media/>

Jesus taught that our lives have great value in the eyes of God (Mt 6:26). God values all the creatures he has made, as taught in Genesis 1-2. Yet the Scriptures teach that we are even more valuable to God.

In the marketplace an item's value is determined by the amount that someone is willing to pay for it. The Gospel teaches us that we have immeasurable value to God, for the price paid for our redemption (that is, our reconciliation and restoration to God) was the life of Jesus, the sinless only begotten Son of God. Jesus was punished for our sins, so that we might be forgiven. He willingly suffered on our behalf because of our worth to him.

Worth Saving

Luke 15:4-7 ESV *“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”*

- Jesus is like this shepherd. God values each of us so much that he considers us worthy of saving. Had the sheep been left alone, it would have perished. If we are left to ourselves, our own sins will bring about our own destruction, partially in this life and forever after death. But God cares about each of us and wants to save each of us. Jesus said that the reason he came into this world from heaven was to “seek and save the lost.”

Worth Searching

Luke 15:8-10 ESV *“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

- Some Jewish brides are reported to have worn a headdress with ten small silver coins on it that was part of her dowry and signified her marriage covenant. It's quite possible that the coin lost in this illustrative story would have been understood to be one of these coins. Such a coin would have been

immeasurably valuable to a bride. She would have searched and searched and searched until she found it.

- In the same way Jesus values us immensely. God will "search" for us by his Spirit throughout our lives to bring us back to him. He deeply desires to restore us to himself, to his love and joy.

Worth Staying

Luke 15:11-24 ESV *And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."*

- The father stayed put with a heart that longed, hoped, and waited for the day his son might possibly return to him. He never shut his heart to the son who dishonored him. God is the same with us. As Isaiah wrote, "(T)he LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him" (Isaiah 30:18 NAS). God's justice was satisfied when Jesus suffered in our place for our sins.
- God has not shut heaven to those who turn to him through Jesus. As Paul wrote, "(E)veryone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13 ESV).

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Do believe you are greatly valued by God? If so, how does this affect your life? If not, why not?
- Do you have difficulty valuing people that you don't naturally get along with? How could you overcome this better? How should we value people and yet not approve of their ungodly behavior and attitudes?
- How have you gone out of your way to seek and save those who are apart from God? What can you do to either more consistently or more effectively do this?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would increase our revelation of how much he values us.
- That God would increase our estimation of the value of others, especially those apart from him.
- That God would show us how to effectively bring others into a relationship with God through Jesus.