



Incorporating Godly Values

Mark 8:36-37

36''For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? NAS

The following is said to be a true story that comes from the sinking of the Titanic.

A frightened woman found her place in a lifeboat that was about to be lowered into the freezing North Atlantic. She suddenly thought of something she needed so she asked permission to return to her stateroom before they cast off. She was granted three minutes or they would leave without her.

She ran across the deck that was already slanted at a dangerous angle. She raced through the gambling room with all the money that had rolled to one side, ankle deep. She came to her stateroom and quickly pushed aside her diamond rings and expensive bracelets as she reached to the shelf above her bed and grabbed three small oranges. Quickly she found her way back to the lifeboat and got in.

The incredible thing about this story is that 30 minutes earlier she would not have chosen a *crate* of oranges over the smallest diamond. But death had boarded the Titanic. Instantly, priceless things became worthless and worthless things priceless. Oranges became more valuable than diamonds.

The Concept of Value

1. What is it that gives something value?

2. What is the difference between the price of something and its value? Are price and value the same or different? What determines price? What determines value?

3. What do the following phrases mean?

- Family values
- Value system
- Intrinsic value
- "Values clarification"

Values in the Bible

4. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10.

Jesus is the founder of our faith. How is His value described here vs. how the world valued Him? (v. 4-8)

What statement is made of our value as Christians (v. 9-10)

5. Read 1 Peter 4:4-5. Tell how the clash in values between the world and the Christian shows up in a contrasting behavior.

6. Read Philippians 3:4-8. How did Paul compare the things that were valuable to him in his life before Christ vs. his life as a Christian? How much do we value the things that Paul turned his back on compared to knowing Christ?

What We Are to Value

7. Matthew 13:45-46. How highly should a Christian value the Kingdom? What is the Kingdom? Seeing the effort and expense this pearl seeker went to, how does our effort toward the kingdom compare?

8. Read Matthew 6:31-34. What is to occupy first place in our value system, above even concern for the necessities of life?

Adjusting Our Values

9. Obviously worldly values are very different than kingdom values. When we come to Christ there must be a huge "values adjustment." This goes beyond just our actions all the way to the way we view things and the basic presuppositions we use in making decisions. It cannot be done in a day or with a single decision. It is a process. How can we make such drastic changes in even the way we think? See Ephesians 4:17-24.

10. Read Matthew 6:19-24. In the midst of this comparison of loving money (and the things it can buy) vs. loving the service of God, Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (v. 21) How might this verse give us a clue for changing the things that we love?

What will happen if we try to love both God and money equally? (v. 24)

What will a cloudy or foggy view of this issue do to our lives? (v. 22-23)

11. Read Colossians 3:1-4. What two steps does Paul give here to aid in our transformation?