

Value

Mark 10:28-34

Hook: Ever find a really good deal? Example: Myrna & her oak furniture: MT barn sales and a pocket knife.

Ever have an antiques roadshow experience? [Photos from show] Get hold of something and are unaware of its true value?

We discover the value of a thing by: **assessing its worth** (experts on the show); discovering what a person is **willing to pay** for it (someone willing to pay the assessed value).

Tonight we are reminded of the value of our life with our Lord by what the disciples - then and now-- were willing to give up for it. We're also reminded of the value of our salvation by what Jesus was willing to pay in order to purchase it for us.

Last week & context:

Context: Jesus and His disciples walked from Perea to Jericho, now heading up the Jericho Road to Jerusalem. 15 miles with elevation gain of 3400' (like from here to top of Carson Pass). Lonely, dangerous stretch (Good Samaritan). [Photo of Jericho Road]

Jesus heading to Jerusalem for the final time: that tumultuous week from entering as King to being crucified as criminal, in our place and for each of us.

Last week, the rich young ruler wondered what he could **do** to be saved. Jesus showed him that he held control of his life / money as more important than a relationship with the living God. We can do **nothing** to earn our salvation but believe in Jesus and what He has done for us. Receive the gift and respond to Him as our Lord.

Certainly a break for "processing time" occurred as they as they walked along the road. The disciples had been astonished beyond all measure that a rich man would turn away from Jesus. Even more astonished that Jesus said a rich person is saved with great difficulty, yet children believe quite easily.

Why the difficulty for adults? We start trusting in other people / things, whereas children trust God implicitly when they respond to Him.

No doubt all disciples reflecting on this encounter, and the cost of following Jesus. Peter is the first to speak.

Exposition

:28-31 The cost of following Jesus

:28 Peter says with honesty, not bragging: "Jesus, we've done this." We have left all nearly 3 years ago. [Read Mark 1:16-20](#) That was a one-time act: we began following You then and we still are now.

When we trust the Lord with our lives, there's a certain element of risk:

- No longer completely in control: we allow the Lord to have final say in our lives.
- Our future is uncertain: we walk by faith, not by sight.
- We may suffer for doing the right thing.

Peter doesn't say it, but certainly some of the disciples are wondering, "Lord, is the sacrifice worth it?"

:29-30 Jesus answers with a very serious statement. "Pay attention". Every follower of Jesus is meant to turn toward Him as if he were to abandon family and possessions... for that may happen.

Jesus mentions people and things that are the most dear to all of us:

house: the place in all the world we can relax and feel safe.

family: the closest human ties may keep us from turning to our Lord wholeheartedly.

lands: a place to graze cattle: our business, means of livelihood. I've known many over the years whose walk with the Lord has flourished in financial success and disaster.

The value of our new life in Christ makes anything and everything else pale in comparison. Doesn't mean we forsake our family or throw away all our possessions. But they rank behind the relationship with our Lord!

:30 The value of our new life in Christ far exceeds any sacrifice we make in order to obtain it (that is, turning wholeheartedly and completely to Jesus and forsaking anyone/anything who occupied the position that belongs only to God. We don't work for or earn our new life.)

"Hundredfold" is a figurative statement to show the **value** of our new life in Christ. We don't receive one hundred new mothers, for instance... neither is there a one-to-one correspondence of sacrifice and reward (I give up a car, God will give me a better one.) But the Lord is a rewarder of those who follow Him.

The rewards of following Jesus occur "**now, in this time**" and "**in the age to come**". The rewards in our lifetime include:

Houses, lands: God is our **provider**. He will take care of a **place to live and means to work**. Frequently He provides through His people.

We need to look out for the needs of one another, as God takes our family ties in Him seriously. In the early church, believers even relinquished control of their possessions. Not necessary to live in a Christian commune to take Jesus' ownership of all we have seriously. Realize we might be the way God meets the needs of some other believer, here or abroad.

Family: In a few months' time from this conversation, the church would be born. No way the disciples could foresee this. Jesus would die, be buried, rise, and ascend to His Father. He would send the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers in Him and begin the church. The bond created between brothers and sisters in Christ is real, and is meant to be close. The apostles would sacrifice the rest of their lives helping the church—the people—grow, and for more to hear the gospel.

Just as our family ties bring blessings, we also jointly inherit what no one would ask for... suffering together. We receive also persecutions. [\[Display World Watchlist Map\]](#)

Why is persecution toward Christians so common? A very short time from this moment, at the last Supper with His disciples, Jesus would offer this explanation:

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. "He who hates Me hates My Father also." -John 15:18-23

Those who don't know and don't WANT to know Jesus recoil at the light shown on sin, and the conviction that it brings. Sin means there's a problem with me that I can't fix!

We live where two different kingdoms exist: the **kingdom of this world**, where people can be their own gods for a short time, but over whom Satan cracks his whip. The end is eternal judgment.

Kingdom of our Lord: enter through faith in Jesus alone. Requires humility and real sacrifice. The present and the future of this kingdom is eternal life.

Since Jesus told us we would suffer, this doesn't mean we go out of our way to be obnoxious so we can bring the disdain of others on ourselves, nor that we suffer for our own issues. There will be pushback on us as Christians, and in those situations the love of God through us can shine most brightly.

Many countries in world today, at this moment, where it is extremely difficult to live as a follower of Jesus. We'll look at some of them in a few minutes.

In this present time, God gives us back what we need through His provision and through being part of the church. In the "age to come", when Jesus returns or when we see Him face to face, we will inherit eternal life. Actually, we live that new, resurrected life NOW.

:31 “But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Peter’s initial statement, “We we have left all and followed You.”

The King knows the sacrifices made by His servants, and He will reward them. Many believers for whom this life was very hard, who gave up and suffered much with little notice except from God, they will be first in God’s kingdom. Heroes of the faith not necessarily those who are published and highlighted now.

A reminder of what “heroes of the faith” look like in Hebrews 11.

“Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did **not** receive the promise, God having provided something better for us” -Hebrews 11:35-40

In the kingdom of this world, which judges people by their outward appearances, by their wealth, intelligence, youth, and beauty, the rich young ruler who departed would be first in God’s kingdom, and the disciples last. Peter had asked a question and received an answer that revealed God’s **value** of their life as believers. **Now they were going to be reminded again of the value of their salvation by what it was about to cost our Lord.**

:32-34 **The path marked out for Jesus: The Cost of Our Salvation**

:32 Having time to reflect on something you’ve discovered, something God is teaching you, is important for that to really “sink in” and make a change in your life. Jesus made wise use of time for reflection with his disciples as they hike upwards on the 15-mile journey to Jerusalem from Jericho.

Jesus walked **alone** before them. He wasn’t angry, just determined. There was a seriousness of purpose in this trip, and the disciples sensed it. They knew Jesus was tremendously unpopular with the Pharisees and Jewish leaders. Some of them had a vague apprehension about going to Jerusalem this time, which they expressed as fear. Others had their minds somewhere else, which we’ll see demonstrated next week.

At some point, Jesus paused and let the men catch up to Him. Once again, He spelled out in great detail what was about to turn their world upside down not many days in the future.

:33-34 This is what will happen once we enter Jerusalem. He refers to Himself as the **Son of Man**, a term used in Daniel (7:13-14) to identify the Messiah.

-He will be **betrayed**.

-He will be **condemned** by the chief priests and the scribes. Since the Sanhedrin, the Jewish governing council, was forbidden to put anyone to death, they would have to refer the Son of Man to the “nations”, or the authority of the Roman government. Under their cruel hand Jesus would be mocked, scourged (back ripped open with a leaded whip), spat upon, and killed. But the Son of Man would rise victorious from the dead the third day!

We drive past yellow **caution signs** [photo] all the time. Some at arroyos say “turn around, don’t drown if flooded.” If we knew what Jesus knew would happen to Him once He entered Jerusalem, would we have gone? This knowledge from His Father could have been like a caution sign all along the Jericho road. Instead, Jesus bravely continued toward the cross, toward those hours when He would bear the sin of the whole world in His body. Writer of Hebrews said Jesus was focused on the joy that was set before Him... the myriad of people who would be redeemed by His death, including you and me. That is courage, and that’s what God’s love looks like.

Wrapup

The value of our salvation—our forgiveness of sins, new life now, and eternal life—is hard to imagine. We see its value through its price: the life and blood of our Lord Jesus.

Any sacrifice we make to follow our Lord pales in comparison, yet those sacrifices can be significant. Our family in Christ that happen to live in some dangerous countries right now are demonstrating what giving up all for Him means. One way we recognize that we are the same family is to pray for them. Let's watch this video and spend some time in prayer together.

Show video about the World Watch List: https://youtu.be/nPI_fLwNOeE

Time for **body prayer for persecuted believers around the world.**

Close in worship

Applying God's Word to My Life

-Ask God to show you if you have "left everything" to follow Jesus. He will reveal if you haven't. What ought to be the response if there's anything holding you back from following the Lord completely and wholeheartedly?

-Thank God for one aspect of Jesus' sacrifice for you, personally, that is especially meaningful to you now.

-Use the 2017 World Watch List as a reminder to pray for believers in Jesus who are being persecuted for their faith in many countries around the world. More information about daily life for believers in these countries can be found at www.opendoorsusa.org Scroll down the page and then click on World Watch List.