

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

Uncommon

BY PASTOR TURNER

ACTS 10:14-15 *But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.*

GENESIS 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

1 PETER 1:18-19 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

We are incredibly valuable to God. Mankind is unique as the only created beings made in the very image of God. As such, the Psalmist David recognized that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Our intrinsic value is best understood when we look at the price Jesus paid for our salvation. If the value of something is determined by the cost someone else is willing to pay, then we are worth everything to Jesus, because He paid it all for us. In the Old Testament, the blood of bulls and goats purchased an annual respite from sin for the children of Israel, but, in order to redeem us fully and completely, the blood of animal sacrifices was not sufficient. So Jesus came as the Lamb without blemish and without spot. He was the perfect sacrifice, and He shed His blood "for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). He redeemed us with His own blood. Now Calvary stands forever as a testament to how much He loved us, and the great price He paid for us.



Application

If we truly understood the worth of every single human being, it would affect how we treat others and ourselves. To understand that everyone is created in the image of God is to know that everyone is deserving of our utmost respect. When we treat others, or ourselves, with disrespect, we are ultimately disrespecting the blood of Jesus which was shed as payment for their salvation. May the eyes of our understanding be opened that we may receive this revelation!

Discussion

1. In chapter six of the book of Judges, the Lord calls Gideon a mighty man of valour, even though he evidently didn't see himself as such. What does this instance show us about God's perception of who we are versus our own perception of ourselves?
2. Do the trials, scars, and mistakes of life diminish the intrinsic value of a person? Why/Why not?
3. In Matthew 5, Jesus taught that those who called others "Raca," or worthless, were in danger of being taken in front of the religious council for correction. Why is this teaching so important, especially in today's time?

Prayer Focus

Pray that the eyes of our understanding would be open and that we would view others the way that Jesus views them. Pray that this would increase our love and respect for them.

Pray that God would allow us to see how He sees us and that we would not consider ourselves to be basic, common, or unlovable, when He has declared us to be so much more.