

# “Are You Valuable?”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, February 23, 2020

**Matthew 6:25-26 NKJV:** <sup>25</sup>“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

Who are you? How do you see yourself? How do you think others see you or think about you? How are your value and worth determined? By what standard or by whom is your value decided?

The problem that we have in our society and in our culture is that we base our value and worth on:

- What others say about us
- What kind of relationships we have or don't have
- What we have achieved
- What we have acquired in material things
- Our vocations and titles
- If we are praised or rewarded by our performances
- Our abundance of or lack of education
- People we know
- How many followers we have on social media
- How many likes or views we get

These are all external factors upon which we base our value and worth. The problem here is there's no internal anchor or innate sense of value. And why would there be? The culture we live in is one where you have what many consider to be worthless people. If you don't add value in some way to some person, you have no worth. You don't have a reason to exist.

For me, sports was what I did to prove I was worth existing and had value. Also, going to the right parties, and hanging with the most popular people. When things went well, I was untouchably confident and happy. I felt alive and powerful. On the other side of that coin, during the bad periods, I felt worthless and homeless, like I didn't deserve to be. Everyone didn't like me anymore, and shame and rejection became my reason to get drunk or redraw from everyone. It was a life of frustration, an emotional roll coaster, while keeping up my fake facade.

Then one night, sitting with a group of Christians, I heard the truth about my true worth and value from God's perspective.

**John 3:16-17 NKJV:** <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**Romans 5:6-10 NKJV:** <sup>6</sup>For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup>For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

God loves me unconditionally and gave His only Son to die for my sin. Then, when I receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior, the Spirit of God comes to live in me. That establishes and determines my value and worth.

Therefore, my value doesn't decrease based on what someone else thinks, says, or has done to me. It's not based upon external things. It's based upon an internal revelation that I'm accepted, loved, and blessed, not according to what I have done or haven't done, it's based upon what God has done for me!!! It's called love, grace, and mercy!!