

Fullness Vs. Lack 3

What is My Worth?

(preached 9/29/24)

Please turn to *Luke 5:4-9, 2 Peter 1:1-4, Colossians 1:9-14.*

LAST WEEK:

- This entire sermon series is the revelation that God has filled us, not left us empty and lacking.
- We are His Temple: ALL parts of us! Our body, heart, mind, and spirit have been fashioned to be home to God the Holy Spirit.
- We were consecrated by the Blood of Jesus, anointed by the oil of the Holy Spirit.
- We were Dedicated to Jesus once and for all time!
- Christ designed us with meticulous care and detail, prepared us before we were ever born and for what purpose?
- To be ONE with us. To live here on earth with us! To FILL US.
- Let me speak some verses about this fullness I haven't shared yet:

In Ephesians 1, Paul is expounding on how Father God gave Jesus everything: all His FULLNESS which then places our Lord above everything: Then Paul drops this bombshell:

[Eph 1:22-23 NKJV] 22 And He (Father God) put all [things] under His (Jesus') feet, and gave Him (Jesus) to be head over all [things] to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The part underlined means **Jesus then shared everything with us!** While we're not God and should never compare ourselves to Him in that way, He has chosen to do the same for us as Father did for Him: ***seat us at His right hand in heavenly places AND give us dominion over our enemies (put all things under our feet).***

[Eph 4:4-6 NKJV] 4 [There is] one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all.

TODAY we're going to talk about **worth** and I address it because so many people struggle with it...even those in Christ. Please remember as I speak today: it's not the mind that needs to be convinced of God's truths, it's our hearts. Let the words of the sermon be heard by the ears of your heart and I say: this sermon is for me too!

First allow me to clear up any confusion in the church about being worthy, and the question of “are we worthy?”

**Before we were Saved we weren't.
Then Jesus made us so we are.**

ALL of the worth we have inside of us is His and therefore ours. It's eternal, can't be corrupted, won't get old and feeble, can't be stolen, nor given back, and Jesus won't remove it.

Just as Father gave Jesus everything, Jesus gave us everything.

Think of Jesus right now: sitting on His throne, many crowns on His head, resplendent in shining glory! He rules over everything and both angels and demons bow to Him and call Him Lord! He is holy, righteous, and mighty!

WHAT IS HE WORTH? (wait for answer). If you really believe what you just said then guess what: time for my heart and yours to apply this to ourselves...because when Jesus formed this covenant with us, He gave us everything that was His.

In John 16 He tells His disciples that **He will send the Holy Spirit** to do this:

[Jhn 16:13-14 NKJV] 13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, **for He will take of what is Mine and declare [it] to you.**"

If this saying is taken out of context, **one might think that the HS will just tell us what Jesus owns.** What the HS is truly saying is that Jesus is *sharing everything He owns with US and one of the jobs of the HS is to remind US that we have inherited the same.*

And that includes His worth.

“Wait a minute Scott” you might be saying. “I accept that Jesus is worthy. He's never committed sins, He's God, and He's done lots of good for people. He's proved Himself. Me on the other hand....”

Let's go down that road. I agree about Jesus including the fact that He proved Himself worthy.

[Rev 4:11 NKJV] 11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

[Rev 5:12 NKJV] 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Jesus reduced Himself from God to man and inhabited a normal, human body like ours which comes with all the temptations you and I are familiar with.

- Yet He never sinned even once.
- He was given a mission and purpose here on earth by Father and obeyed it to a "T" never deviating even once.
- For His obedience and righteousness, He was resurrected then empowered to ascend to Heaven and take His rightful place next Father God as God.
- He was given ownership and rule over EVERYTHING and everyone.

I assume we can all accept this with no issues? About Jesus?

We just can't accept that Jesus would just "give" us this, which is why Christians still struggle with worth.

Instead of attaching our worth to Jesus, we attach it to actions and merit. Our "works."

- Every time we do something good or successful we give ourselves credit and increase our worth.
- Every time we do something bad or are unsuccessful we deduct points from the same.

There's another thing we attach our worth to—the love or lack thereof to the people in our lives.

- Our parents, spouse, kids, family, fellow Christians, etc.
- When they're loving us, treating us respectfully, and giving us their time our value goes up.
- When they're not, it goes down.

We apply the same to our history: perhaps our parents were neglectful to us, didn't have time, or even worse: chose someone else over us and closed their hearts to us. Maybe this same thing happened in a marriage or relationship. If we attached our worth to them, it plummeted and told us that no one wants us in our lives and no one is willing to fight for us.

- What if we stopped attaching worthiness to our actions and success?
- What if we stopped linking it with how others are treating us?
- I'm not speaking of Godless independence!

What if we joined our worthiness to Jesus?

Whenever you see the word “join” in the Bible, it’s the same as “marriage/married to.” It denotes oneness. The Lord reveals through His Bible that our covenant with Him is marital and that we’re meant to join with Him in our hearts and spirits.

If a terrible human relationship robbed us of value then let our relationship with Christ restore it...permanently.

If our own failed works of sinning, lack of success (as the world defines it) has made us feel worth-less, then let the works and shining success of Jesus make us feel worth-y!

What might different inside of us if we did so?

- Perhaps the devil would be less able to deceive and condemn us?
- Perhaps people with bad intentions or having a bad moment couldn’t bring us down so much?
- Perhaps negative circumstances wouldn’t throw us into such a tailspin?

[Mat 8:5-10, 13 NKJV] 5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." 7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 The centurion answered and said, "**Lord, I am not worthy** that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this [one], 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does [it]." 10 When Jesus heard [it], He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ... 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, [so] let it be done for you." **And his servant was healed that same hour.**

Notice: Jesus said “YES” despite the “status” of the centurion....

- Why did Jesus heal the centurion’s servant?
- Answer: Because the guy believed and had faith.
- What did the Roman believe in?
- What did he link himself to in that moment, pleading on behalf of his servant? JESUS.

Suppose the Roman had seen Jesus healing people and **said to himself:** *“I’d really like to ask Him to heal my servant, but I’m not even Jewish. I’m a sinner whose done terrible things to the Jewish people...so there’s no way this Guy would ever agree.”* He would never have approached Jesus in the first place and his servant would have died.

[Luk 5:4-9 NKJV] 4 When He [Jesus] had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to [their] partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw [it], he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"** 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

Fishing was Peter’s livelihood and this amazing catch was worth at least a week’s wages, maybe a whole month.

Upon receiving this blessing what happens? ***Peter says he’s not worthy to be blessed this way.*** He actually falls on his knees before Christ and *“depart me from me”* doesn’t just mean he’s asking Jesus to walk away, **but to renounce him as a disciple.**

Why is Peter disqualifying himself? His sins. His bad actions, any terrible words he may have spoken, unclean thoughts and feelings. Yet look what Peter writes a few decades later when he’s matured in his faith:

[2Pe 1:1-4 NKJV] 1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as **His divine power has given to us all things that [pertain] to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which **have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption [that is] in the world through lust.

Peter now believes Jesus has shared ALL things with us! He’s no longer asking Christ to disavow him. He’s no longer attaching his worthiness with himself or others. ***He’s linked it to Jesus.***

[Jhn 15:4-5 NKJV] 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "**I am the vine, you [are] the branches.** He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**"

- Let's join our hearts with Jesus, the Vine.
- We are his branches who bear fruits of righteousness and please notice: said fruit is only produced AFTER we join with Him.
- By linking ourselves with Him we're also linking ourselves to His works and thus can reproduce works like His.
- By attaching ourselves to Him, we're also attaching ourselves to His worthiness...which enables us to live in a manner worthy of Him.

Earlier you agreed with me that Jesus is worthy because He restrained Himself completely from evil, and only did good. Was perfectly obedient to Father w/o deviation. ***Can we also admit that we cannot achieve either one of those things, no matter how hard we try?***

So how then can anyone be Saved? How can one be forgiven? Receive an inheritance from God?

[Eph 2:8-9 NKJV] 8 For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the **gift of God**, 9 **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.

WE WERE FORGIVEN BECAUSE OF JESUS WORK.

- While here, at the Cross, the Resurrection, and the Ascension.
- We're Saved because Jesus GAVE that us by grace—undeserved favor.
- No personal merit involved.
- Nothing good we did, nothing bad we stopped ourselves from doing.

Have you received forgiveness, yes or no?

If you said "yes" I have great news: **worthiness is received the same way** as forgiveness and none of us deserve that any more than we did getting our trespasses washed away.

Worthiness is like salvation: it's eternal and unwavering because it's completely based on Jesus' character, Jesus doing good, Jesus restraining Himself from evil, and Jesus perfectly obeying God.

He took HIS worthiness and shared it with us just as He has everything else Father gave Him.

When we DENY that and call ourselves worth-less, **isn't that the same as asking Him to depart from us? (like Peter).**

If we continue to marry our worthiness to our own actions and how others did/are treating us, we'll constantly struggle with anger, depression, resentment, and feeling like we have little to no value.

*Worth-lessness comes from a position of lack...*and we've already established Christ has given us FULLNESS.

Now imagine living the Christian life with our hearts attached to and therefore full of the worthiness of Jesus!

- When we approach God, kneeling before Him to pray, do we remind Him that we are sinful?
- 'Cause if we do, aren't we telling Him He should DENY us anything good?
- Please notice Jesus gave the fish BEFORE Peter confessed his sinfulness... **and didn't take the catch away after!**
- That the only reason we should ever be blessed is because we earned it?

What if we knelt before Him knowing He gave us His worthiness as a gift to us?

- What would our prayers sound like?
- I say they would be full of thanks. Gratitude. Awe. Wonder.
- I say that from that would flow praises to Him, and worship of Him.
- I say that from that would flow desire and motivation to serve and obey Him out of joy vs. obligation or hoping we can "make up" for something.

What if we approached our loved ones this way: full of the worthiness of Christ?

- Perhaps we wouldn't be so "needy" of them, needing them to validate and affirm us quite as often?
- Maybe we could even be bright shining lights to them, loving them the way God says we ought to?
- Maybe this would draw us closer to them and them to us?

What about when we sin?

- What if we respond to committing sins FROM a position of being connected to Jesus' worth?
- Maybe instead of beating ourselves up, calling ourselves names, and then trying to "work" to "regain" something we might instead thank God for His rich mercy.
- That He DIDN'T depart from us in our sin, even if we begged Him to.
- That He's already given us a boatful of fish and now we desire to join ourselves with His righteousness vs some sin.
- Being God: doesn't Jesus already know every sin we've committed? Yet He decides to give us the fish anyway?

[Col 1:10 NKJV] 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [Him], being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

READING THIS VERSE ALONE MAKES IT SEEM LIKE PAUL IS WAGGING HIS FINGER

and telling us to try harder...so now *let's read the verses surrounding* this call to worthiness:

[Col 1:9-14 NKJV] 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that **you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding**; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [Him], being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 **strengthened with all might**, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father **who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance** of the saints in the light. **13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed [us] into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, **the forgiveness of sins**.

It's not a call to "try harder!": **it's a divine empowerment**. We have already received:

- We're already filled with knowledge of His will.
- Strengthened with ALL His might
- Already qualified us to saintly inheritance...(WHO did the qualifying???)
- Freed from power of darkness
- Granted citizenship to Kingdom
- Sins forgiven.

EXERCISE: do this consistently and not just after you're triggered by feelings of unworthiness:

- Have an internal convo with your heart, mind, and body—you are your spirit.
- Gently speak the following reassuring truths:
- "Our worth isn't linked to how good or bad we are."
- "Our worth isn't joined with our success or lack thereof."

- “Our value is not attached to how others have/are treating us: whether good or bad.”
- “Our value is married to Jesus!”
- “Jesus is good! Jesus is successful! He earned and deserves everything and Father has given it to Him!”
- “He loves me so much He shared it all with me!”
- “He gave me His inheritance!”
- “He gave me His worthiness!”
- “I am joined with Jesus!”