

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday August 11, 2019. "At the Movies: Charlotte's Web"

I. Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

II Recap.

We're in our second Sunday of our "**At the Movies**" series, and the topic is relationships. What we're doing is finding movies that highlight a particular point, truth about relationships, and then we use that specific clip or scene from that movie coupled with scripture to teach practical useful truths about how to navigate the world of relationships. Last week Angela Barnett did a fantastic job talking about the necessity of relationships, we are created for them, and what it means to live our lives with healthy, life-giving relationships with others. If you missed last week's, get on the website and check it out.

III Sunday.

Sunday Kal was back, and used the movie "**Charlotte's Web**", (the 2006 one), to talk about the issue of outward impressions and inward value and worth. The clip used was the end of the movie, set at the fair when Charlotte was letting Wilbur know she wasn't going back to the farm because she was dying. But she told Wilbur he had given her the priceless gift of seeing an inner worth and beauty in her, when everyone else just saw a spider. It was a heartwarming scene. But if we're honest, when we see a spider no one automatically thinks of Charlotte. We usually kill it...it is a spider in fact. However, Charlotte's point is not lost on us. We understand, and many of us have experienced, the unfortunate truth of being judged on the outside, what we may have said or done, rather than what's inside of us. And Sunday, that truth was addressed specifically in the life of the apostle Paul. But first...a few questions.

Have you ever been judged, valued, by what others saw or thought they knew about you rather than who you are on the inside? How did that feel?

And because we're all guilty of this, WHEN you've done this, what was the situation?

So the question for us is; How do we overcome the tendency to both be affected when others do this to us, and to keep from doing this, (judging worth or value by what we see), to others?

Kal used a lengthy passage in which Paul, writing a specific church, went on a rant, expressing his frustration in being judged by others who don't really know him. This is a long, rambling, passage in which you can feel Paul's defensiveness and trying to be honest and admit his own shortcomings. But not let it diminish who he is, and his value before God.

Read the passage in **2 Corinthians 11:1-21**...probably several times, and then we'll unpack it.

What did you notice in this passage?

How did what Paul was expressing 'feel' to you?

What do you think Paul was wrestling with?

Paul was writing to the church at Corinth, in a frank way, his frustration people were coming into Corinth after he had been there, and were trying to undo what Paul had taught by ripping on him. Paul was a bit sensitive about it. And in this part of his letter to this church, he was defending himself by owning some of his own 'Paulness'. He admitted he was imperfect, and did have his shortcomings. But to also say his value, worth came from Christ, and inside of him God was doing this great thing. This happens by doing several things.

1. Admitting your own shortcomings.

2. Asking could some, even a little, of what others are saying possibly be true?

3. Do the inner work to determine what others may be saying about you is true, and what isn't.

4. And recognize even in doing this, your imperfections will surface. So, in your 'youness' how might you be handling this poorly?

All of these are tough truths to wrestle with in the different relationships in our lives. We are imperfect. We do have shortcomings. We may be difficult to deal with at times. And we may not be totally aware of what it's like to experience us. Paul was genuinely wrestling with what had been said about him. Trying to figure out what might be true, what was exaggeration or just misunderstanding. And how was he going to handle it. And in this passage, we can see not only Paul wrestling with those things, but wrestling with those things as Paul. In all of his flaws and imperfections.

Which of these are difficult for you? Why?

How have you handled criticism or other people's experience with you?

What did it reveal to you...about you?

Just like the movie used- "*Charlotte's Web*", Paul was both able to admit; yeah...he may be just a spider. There are a lot of issues on the outside. But there is also this inner beauty, value, and worth on the inside. And in those relationships in our lives, we learn to own all of who we are, we are always learning more about ourselves, but we NEVER forget we are God's creation, and there is beauty and value within all of us that God wants to use for good.

So, what inner value and worth are you discovering that God has placed within you?

IV Challenge.

Finally, we saw not only did Paul wrestle with moving past what others said about him, to find his own inner worth, he saw the importance of doing this for others. So a young man, who had a difficult upbringing, Paul singled out and poured truth and life about the inner worth young Timothy had.

Who in your world, your life, could you do the same?

We get to find the inner value and worth of those in our daily lives...**Make A Difference!!**