

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (FOR DEC 25, 2022) For Community Groups or Personal Study

The title of our Advent sermon series this year was "Till He Appeared and the Soul Felt its Worth." This phrase is found in the beautiful Christmas Hymn, "O Holy Night."

Our soul is where our emotions come from. It seeks to be valued and to have a sense of belonging. We can never understand our worth until we accept Jesus' coming into our lives. That is only when our lives have true meaning and the vacuum in our soul is filled.

More than 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son into our messy world, a beautiful world that had been created for us, that man had corrupted, so that we might know our worth. So, this baby, this tiny baby, born in such humble circumstances, so many years ago, is the One who gives our souls their worth. I can't help but wonder at this. How beautiful is God's grace?

He gave His precious Son to us, letting us see just a glimpse of His love for us. For those of us who have experienced the overwhelming love of God, He wants us to let others see His love through us. There is no better time to express this than Christmas, but we can do this all through the year actually.

So, let's make an effort to reach out to someone so that they will encounter Christ through us this year. Let's not be a hindrance preventing others from seeing the love of Christ. As they experience this love who is Christ, their souls will also know their worth.

CHRISTMAS DAY: You Are Worthy

SERMON PASSAGE: MATTHEW 6:25-34

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?"

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even

Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. In today's society, how is success generally measured?
2. What lesson can we learn from the birds? From lilies?
3. Can you think of any other Scripture verses that speak to our worth? (Matthew 10:31...)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. What does verse 26 say about our worth?
5. Where is your worth? Is it in the "bank" or in heaven?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. What is the difference between your spirit and your soul?
7. Where do we find our true worth?
7. Instead of worrying let's spend more time thanking God, for in Christ Jesus, we find our true worth. How can we do that?
8. How can you help someone you meet this year to know their worth?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to give you confidence that He loves you and He will never leave you. Give thanks to God for answering your prayers.