

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF YOUR LIFE? (2)

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If one were to read John 13:4-17, they would understand that our King is not a dictator, nor one who says and does not (Matthew 23:3). He led by example. "God with us" (Jesus), girded himself with a servant's apron, knelt down on his knees and washed his brethren's feet. This was not a desired job. Notice that the bowl and the apron were in the room. No one else had done the work of washing feet. But Jesus put on humility and was not above the service of washing feet. We must learn that not everything is about us; in fact, few things should be.

He was a minister (a preacher). How did he spend his time? Seeking praise, or being a faithful servant? He knew that he had the words of life (John 6:68), and he would not keep these words to himself. Many times, we see him teaching in the synagogues, in the temple, to the multitudes in the rural areas, at Jacob's well in Samaria, preaching the words of life. His life was not all about him. His purpose was clearly stated in Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save the lost". This is in stark contrast to those that we mentioned in the beginning.

Let us look in John chapter 1. We see that God is eternal. He is the creator of this world, and the source of life for everything that was made. We see that God was the word, and in verse 14, he became flesh and lived on earth as a man. God the Father sent the word; his son (John 5:24), to be a propitiation (a sacrifice for our sins). And Jesus, sent with purpose, submitted to The Father and obeyed willingly. In John 17:4, Jesus speaks these words to the father, "I have glorified thee on earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do". I pray that these beautiful words can be a summation of my life. Can you think of anything better as a summary of your life. As a faithful servant of the father, he gave all that he had; going to the cross. It was done willingly. In John 10:18 Jesus says, "No man taketh my life, but I lay it down of myself". We should be so thankful, that he was not a selfish savior, but a servant.

Purpose and value in this life are not hard to find, but we must want it. We have been given an amazing and clear example, of what to do in this life, and how to do it. John 17:17 tells us that we are sanctified (made clean of sin) by truth, thy word is truth. Ephesians 1:13 says, "after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation". Romans 1:16, tells us that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation and 1 John 2:24, 2 John 1:9 teaches us that we must abide in the word as well as James 1:25 we must continue therein. This is a race to the end. There are no consolation prizes for participation (Revelation 2:10). We cannot serve two masters and finish the race. All allegiance must be to God (Matt.6:24).

If we want meaning in this life, and value in the next life, there is only one way to accomplish this. Fear God and keep his commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Paul tells us specifically how to accomplish this; (2 Tim. 2:15) "Study to shew thyself approved unto God". John then adds to this, telling us how to remain approved unto God (1John 1:7), walk in the light. If we can apply these to our lives, and built on them with more scripture, there will be waiting for you a reward beyond our comprehension (John 14:1-3), and you will be complete in this life, knowing why you are here and what you should be doing.