

VALUING GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE

Let's value God above all else and live in a way that demonstrates what we value most.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Let's take a trip back in time to about 3,800 years ago. You're living in a big tent and you have basically everything you need materially.
- ❖ But there's something you really want and this "something" isn't exactly a thing. It's invisible. You know it's real because you've seen it in action. It's what makes your family different from all others and it's something you've decided you need.
- ❖ It's called the Blessing. Or you could call it the Promise or the Presence. Your father Isaac has it, and his father Abraham had it because he got it directly from God (see Genesis 12:2-3, 13:14-17, 15:1).
- ❖ So, who are you in this story? You have a choice. You can choose to be Jacob—and want this Blessing more than anything else on earth. Or you can choose to be his brother Esau, who felt like "life's pretty good as is."
- ❖ Fast forward almost 500 years. The descendants of Jacob are no longer living in tents. They're not independent farmers or entrepreneurs. Instead they are living in little houses in Egypt and they are slaves.
- ❖ Now who are you in this story? Are you one of those slaves? In fact, you're not.
- ❖ You instead live in a palace made of marble and gold, have servants to take care of your every need, and you have been carefully prepared to rule the greatest empire on earth. Your name is Moses and you are the crown prince of Egypt. And what did you do, Moses? Hebrews 11 tells us what you did (vv. 24-27).
- ❖ Moses had a big choice to make, and he made it by not looking at that which could be seen, but by seeing the invisible.
- ❖ Ask yourself this: What do I want more? To be rich in the Spirit, to have an amazing relationship with God, to be able to help people through the power of God's Spirit? Or is my mind more focused on material things, things that I can touch or taste or buy? Compared to everything else that I value in life, how do I value God?
- ❖ Think of the word "tea" as an acronym to identify what it is you actually value. You spend **Time** on it. You put **Effort** into it. And at various hours of the day or night, it has your **Attention**. T-E-A.
- ❖ What are the values that are guiding how you think, how you make choices, how you work?
- ❖ What is the spirit that influences how you feel about the things that happen to you? Is it your own human spirit; is it the spirit of the world? Or is it the Holy Spirit? What do you find more rewarding—pleasing your own spirit or pleasing the Spirit of God?

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 12:2-3; Psalm 19:7-11

- ❖ These choices can come up suddenly and at that point you have to ask yourself: Do I value God above all else?
- ❖ King David had a few things to say about valuing God above all else (see Psalm 19:7-11, 27:4, 37:4, 119:18). In summary: God says it, I believe it, I try to live it, and that's it.
- ❖ Jesus talked about those who truly worship God in their spirit and are completely committed to truth. It's not a one-way seeking; God is actively seeking for each one of those people as well. "The Father seeketh such to worship Him" (John 4:23-24).
- ❖ This introduces an important aspect of valuing God: It doesn't start with us. It starts with God. It comes from the realization of God's love for us (see 1 John 3:1-3).
- ❖ When this love dawns on us, it's overwhelming. It's life changing. Instead of trying to be good by constantly rejecting the things that we really want to do, it changes *what* we really want to do.
- ❖ God values you! And one day you're going to see in a big way how He values you (see Malachi 3:16-18; Revelation 22:1-7).
- ❖ Let's value God above all else. And live in a way that demonstrates what we value most.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. The lesson asks the following: In your life, what are you valuing less or more? What prompted this change of attitude towards these things (e.g., age, change of perspective, etc.).
2. Has there been an instance in your life where you had to make a conscious choice to choose God? If comfortable, please share that experience. At the time, was it an easy or difficult decision and if faced by the same situation now, would the decision be just as easy/hard? Why or why not?
3. Were there scriptures that helped you with (1) and/or (2)? Which ones and how did they help?
4. It's TEA time. Set aside extra **TIME** to get into God's Word this week and make an **EFFORT** to do so. When you do, what things draw your **ATTENTION** and how can they be applied to your life?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, I love You. Help me to value You in my life above all else. In Jesus' name, amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 🌱 (New idea) 🗣️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: What is the most valuable thing that you own? What makes this item valuable?