

The Value of a Soul

John 4:4-42

1 Peter 1:18-19 “Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...but with the precious blood of Christ.”

I was talking to a man who sold real estate and asked him, “What determines the worth of a piece of property?” He said, “What a person is willing to pay for it.” In other words, it doesn’t matter how much you paid for it yourself but how much another person is willing to pay to have it for himself or herself. That makes me want to shout! You and I must be worth something if Jesus would pay His life to have us for His own. Jesus is the proof of how much we are worth. Do you know much you weigh? Call a jeweler or bank today and ask how much your weight is worth in gold. Then realize there is no comparison to your worth in blood...the blood of Jesus Christ.

The woman at the well is no different from us. We see that Jesus made a special trip through Samaria, which for a Jew was unheard of. The reason for His visit quickly comes into view as he speaks with the woman at the well. Jesus knew that her life was as empty as her water bucket. She avoided the town’s people out of fear of scorn and rejection by going to the well at a time when no one else should be there. Then, to her surprise she encounters a man who knew everything about her, the band and ugly. As the conclusion of the conversation with her new Savior this woman ran to the town’s people she greatly feared and compelled them to come hear the words of Jesus (Luke 14:23) This woman had started life horribly, but in one moment at a well, she given an opportunity to finish well.

In the 16th chapter of Marks’ Gospel, the women came to the tomb early. There they pressed their way to complete the embalming processes without knowing if the stone was rolled away or if the soldiers would give them a hard time. When they arrived, they found out God had already taken care of both problems. They had an angel experience. Jesus is not dead. He said, “Go and tell my disciples, and Peter...” Now here is the personal attention, and Peter. What about the other disciples? Why not ask about John or Luke, Andrew or Nathaniel? Why give such attention to Peter? The mention of Peter is unique to Mark. The other Gospels do not specifically mention his name. Now we must ask the question “Why?” Remember that Peter denied Jesus three times after pledging his faith. He was prepared to defend Jesus in the garden, but denied him before the cock’s morning crow. Peter denied Jesus not once but three times. Here is an indication that Peter’s mistake was not final. He messed up, but he could finish well. Peter was the leader who led the followers of Jesus into hiding. He made strategic mistakes, displayed poor judgment and exhibited improper behavior. Have you ever done that or been there? Yet by calling his name at the tomb, was Jesus letting Peter know that his mistakes did not cost him his leadership position or his relationship with the Savior? Was this an indication that his mistakes were not final? David made a mistake with Bathsheba and continued to be king of Israel. He finished well. The woman at the well made mistakes in serial monogamous relationships. She finished well. Saul persecuted the church, but after his Damascus Road experience, as Paul, he finished well. Thank God for a personal touch so we too can finish well!! All of our sins were nailed to the cross and buried in a tomb. If we confess, God is faithful to forgive. All humanity was released from the bondage of sin so we could finish well. Our mistakes are not final!

1 Chronicles 16:11 – “Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.”

Things to Ponder

1. How much am I really worth?
2. What stage of the well experience am I at? (i.e. denial, maybe Jesus is a prophet, Jesus is the Messiah)
3. Think back over your life. What was the defining moment that gave you the opportunity to finish well? Have you had that moment? Are you ready for that moment?