

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

Devotion | Week 4 Day 2

Value

Suggested Reading: Luke 21:1-4

Everyone is looking for the best value for their dollar. Mom and Pop shops are long gone, replaced by the supermarket and department stores. But even supermarkets and department stores are now under fire to create a greater value by membership warehouses and online shopping. And while people may not like the Wal-Marts of the world, you can't blame the company for operating under the rules given to them under capitalism any more than you can blame the people who shop there for wanting to save money.

Value is top quality for the price, or working to maximize the return on your investment. The story of the widow's mites is commonly used to show an example of sacrificial giving - which is something God calls us to do. But we need to realize why He calls us to do it. Is it because He's a stickler for rules? Is it because He needs the money? Is it because he wants us to live meager lives? Or is it because He wants to expand our minds to understand that what we have is given to us by Him to provide bread for the eater, but also seed for the sower?

Some people like eating seeds, but even if you enjoy them, you know that they are a snack at best. Seeds don't make a meal, they don't satisfy long term, unless they're planted, cultivated, and harvested as fruit that produces even more seed. The widow understood that her gift was her act of worship. She was thanking God for what she had been given and trusting God that He would take the seed that she planted and produce a harvest with it that would provide her with more bread and seed for tomorrow. What greater value could she have found on the investment of her money?

It's not easy to put your complete trust in something outside of your control. At least that's what people like to say. The funny thing about that is that it's not exactly proven in the way we act. Ever punched an address into a GPS and trusted a computer to guide you to a location hours away from home in a city you've never visited? That takes trust. Ever eaten at a restaurant where you have never visited the kitchen, don't know the cook, but plan to eat food that was kept, prepared, cooked and served in a clean and healthy manner? That's a lot of trust!

Farmers understand the nature of trusting God better than most people. Every year they invest thousands of dollars in seeds. They take those seeds and use equipment worth tens of thousands of dollars to plant those seeds in farmland worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Once planted, they pray for the right amount of sunlight and rain at just the right times so that the seeds will turn into a crop that will pay their bills. Before you begin to question the sanity of these farmers, understand that their hard work, knowledge, skill, and God's answer to prayer has kept many a farm going and the millions of people who rely upon them fed.

At times, you must step away from your comfort zone, drop the world's safety nets, and rely totally on the power of God. This is not easy to do, but God's promises are clear. Hear the promise God makes to those who give to God what He has commanded as written in Malachi 3:8-"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings, you are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. Bring all of the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this" says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessings that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Find value in valuing the will of God.