

Morning Worship

March 27, 2016

Happy Easter!

Pastor — Allan Lane	Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel	
Worship Leader — Tim Waters	Piano — Marcia Hart	
As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.		
(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)		
Welcome and Fellowship	Allan/People	
Anthem	"Jesus Is Alive"	Worship Choir
Offering/Worship Prayer		Fred Keri
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Marcia Hart
Ordinance of Baptism	<i>Candidates: Allen Jennings</i>	
Missions Moment	Ryan Rice: <i>Thank You Notes</i>	
Anthem	"Coronation Medley"	Worship Choir
Hymn # 160	"Low in the Grave He Lay"	Tim/People
Chorus # 178	"He Is Lord"	Tim/People
Anthem	"Who Am I"	Worship Choir
Scripture Reading		Allan/People
Message	"Who Am I?"	Allan Lane
Hymn # 318	"The Nail-Scarred Hand"	Tim/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus # 457	"Lord, Be Glorified"	Tim/People

Who Am I?

Luke 23:32-44

The choir sang an anthem with the same title. When we realize all that Jesus went through for us, we do wonder who we are and if we are worth the price He paid for us. The question might be better stated "Are We Worth It?"

1) Our value system is messed up.

In one of his writings Max Lucado tell of an incident several years ago when a couple of guys broke into a department store in a large city. They successfully entered the store, stayed long enough to do what they came to do, and then escaped unnoticed. What is so unusual about the story is what these guys did. They took nothing. Absolutely nothing. No merchandise was stolen. No items removed. But what they did might be seen as crazy.

Instead of stealing anything, they swapped the price tags on several items. Values were exchanged. These guys took the tag off a \$395 camera and stuck it on a \$5 box of stationary. They took the \$5.95 sticker off a paperback book and stuck it on an outboard motor. They went around and re-priced just about every item in the store.

The next day the store opened as usual. All the employees showed up for work and the customers began to shop. For 4 hours no one working at the store noticed that anything was wrong. Four whole hours! During those 4 hours some people got

incredible deals and others were ripped off big time. It's hard to believe that this actually happened, but it did.

The value of things - what things are worth, really got messed up in that store. If the messed up value system was limited simply only to a retail store it would not be so bad. But the truth is that like in the department store, someone has snuck into our world and switched the price tags on the value and worth of people, such that the definition of worth, of value, of being significant is all messed up. There is no debate the enemy has successfully created a value system that causes most people to look in the mirror and see SPAM rather than T-Bone steak made in the image of Almighty God.

Let me ask you today: do you feel valuable? Not just when you are here at church, but on Monday morning? Wednesday afternoon? Friday night? DO – you feel valuable; at home? at work? At school? AND – if you don't feel valuable, why don't you? IS IT BECAUSE;

- You don't have enough money
- You don't have the right career
- You're not good looking enough
- You're not smart enough

It is difficult for most of us to measure up. And the more we focus on the world's standards and values, the more negative we feel about ourselves. We agree, our world has a twisted, perverted upside down view on what is valuable and important. This messed up value system is not without effect. It causes us: to live lies, to pursue, to pretend. It causes us to miss or forget what it is that really gives us value.

We must understand it's not: what we do, how much we have, how well we perform, or how good we look determines our worth, or our value.

The encounter that Jesus had while nailed to that blood stained cross 2,000 years ago reveals the source of our true value and lasting worth.

2) The thief on the cross.

We don't know all that much about either one of them. All we know is that they were thieves. What they had stolen or how long they had been stealing we don't know. We don't know why they became thieves. Was it because their Father walked out on them before they were born and they grew up poor? Did they only steal from the Romans because somehow they felt justified in taking from them, because of their occupation and cruel oppression of their people? Did they steal out of need or did they steal out of greed?

There is a lot we don't know about these guys. We do know is that one day they got caught, had a trial where they were found guilty, and on a Friday 2,000 years ago they found themselves on cross right next to the Son of God. One author words it like this: "If anyone was ever worthless, these were. If any man ever deserved dying, these men did. If any fellow was ever a loser, these fellows were at the top of the list. Perhaps that is why Jesus chose one of them to show us what He thinks of the human race."

Just what does Jesus think of the human race? What does He think of you and me? Not just when things are great and we are doing well, but when like the thief on the cross you have been caught, busted, tried and found guilty. One Friday 2,000 years ago a thief woke up as the sun began to rise, left his prison cell, carried a cross up a hill, and just like Jesus was nailed to it.

We don't know what they knew about Jesus before that day. But we do know that as they hung there in their own pain, one listened to the other thief treat Jesus just like everyone else. Like the Pharisees and religious leaders, and others in the crowd,

the other thief hurled insults at the king of glory. One crucified thief joined the choruses of others, mocking and attacking our Lord.

We don't know how long the insults toward Jesus lasted. One hour? Two? Three? We don't know how long. But we do know that the longer they hung on their crosses next to the Prince of Peace one began to change in His heart and mind causing this thief to look at the guy on the cross next to him and not see a man beaten, slashed, torn, ripped apart, barely alive with bones poking out through the torn flesh, with his lungs grasping for air like a drowning man. But instead he saw a King. He cried out, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

b) Something changed his mind.

Why did this man have such a drastic change in his attitude towards Jesus? It was what he saw and what he heard. He had never seen anyone endure so much pain and cruelty and yet display such strength, peace, power, control, love and dignity as Jesus did. The circumstance would lead many to shout curses from their mouths. But Jesus did the opposite. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother" (John 19:26). And of course those 12 unbelievable words, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." The blood, the wounds, the suffering, the pain, the torn flesh, the cross, the insults, the broken body could not hide the glory of the Son of God. In fact, all those things revealed His glory. He cried out, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Think about that for a moment. A thief, a sinner, a man who like everyone else had mocked and insulted Him asks Jesus to remember him when he comes into His kingdom. Now if you were Jesus how would you have responded? Let me tell you the world would be in bad shape if one of us were the Christ. Jesus' response: "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

I don't think anyone saw that one coming. Not many would have written that line in the script. To this guy's crazy and outlandish request Jesus said, 'Sure, no problem, I will take you home with me to my kingdom. In fact, I will take you there this very day. Consider it done, my friend.'

Why did Jesus do that? What in the world did He have to gain by promising this thief a place of honor at the banquet table? What in the world could this thug ever offer Jesus in return? Think about it. This guy would never attend a church service, lead a Bible study, teach a class, bring a friend to church, put a tithe in the offering plate, have a Quiet Time with the Lord, work in the nursery, show up for a workday, serve at the food kitchen, sing in the choir. Why, he didn't even get baptized.

The woman at the well that Jesus encountered went into town and told the story of living water. Lepers, after Jesus touched them, go could and spread this news of the healing power of Christ. But what was this thief going to do? Absolutely nothing.

3) Where we find our worth .

And that's the point. Listen closely. Jesus' love does not depend on what we do for him. You have value simply because you are. You don't have to look nice or perform well. Your value is inborn. Think about that for just a moment. You have value, you are worthy of the love of God simply because you exist. Not because of what you do or what you have done, but simply because you are.

a) Not in our ability .

b) Only in God's love .

Conclusion

Get it? Good, but if we are honest with ourselves, I am not so sure that we really do get it. At least I know that I often struggle with being worthy, valuable and loved

by God simply because I exist. There is something about us is that we are so prone to be driven by performance and on days that I perform well there is a temptation to feel like we are more valuable to God.

I am so thankful that the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to put to paper this encounter with the thief on the cross. It is a powerful reminder that it's not what I do or how much I have or how well I perform or how good I look that determines my worth, or my value. My worth and my value rests firmly and securely on God's unfailing, unconditional, enduring forever love for me. We need to believe that, accept that embrace that and rest in that... God is madly in love with us... Don't take my word on it take His...

- Isaiah 43:1,4; 54:10

- Zechariah 8:2

- Ephesians 3:17-19

Do you see what Paul is saying about the love Christ has for you? It is deep, wide, long, high and understanding His love gives fullness of life and power. The most important for you to try to get is the great love that God has for you. Let God's love and his choice of you define your worth.

If you are going to be able to define yourself as one radically loved by God. God's love for you and his choice of you determine your worth. If you are ever going to be able to truly accept that, and let it become the most important thing in your life, you must on a regular basis pull away from the world and it's appearance and performance driven pricing system so that you can hear the voice of God speak to you. It is only when we pull away from the splashing of the world's value system that we will hear God, the voice of love.

Do We Really Get It?

A KING'S RANSOM

According to a *Chicago Tribune* article, on June 22, 1997, parachute instructor Michael Costello, forty-two, of Mt. Dora, Florida, jumped out of an airplane at 12,000 feet altitude strapped with a novice skydiver name Gareth Griffith, age twenty-one.

The novice would soon discover just how good his instructor was, for when the novice pulled his rip cord, their parachute failed. Plummeling to the ground they faced certain death.

But then the instructor did an amazing thing. Just before hitting the ground, the instructor rolled over so that he would hit the ground first and the novice would land on top of him. The instructor was killed instantly. The novice fractured his spine in the fall, but he was not paralyzed.

One man takes the place of another. He takes the brunt for another. One substitutes himself to die so another may live. So it was at the cross, when Jesus died for our sins.

I Timothy 2:6 says Jesus "gave Himself as a ransom." A ransom is a price paid to purchase someone's freedom.

In 1193, the English King Richard I, also known as Richard the Lionheart, was returning from leading a Crusade to the Holy Land. As he returned through Europe, Leopold V captured him in Austria. The Holy Roman Emperor demanded a ransom for Richard's release. The price was to be 150,000 marks, equal to three tons of silver. This was an enormous ransom demand, but the people of England so loved their king they submitted to extra taxation, and many nobles donated their fortunes for Richard's release. After several months, the money was raised and King Richard returned to England. Thus the expression, "a king's ransom."

But to us, the term "a King's ransom" could better be applied to the tremendous price Jesus, the King of Kings paid for our sins on the cross. This King wasn't being ransomed; He paid the ransom so we can be set free. It is the most expensive ransom in the history of

mankind.

In another story that came from the Crusades, Norman Lord Grimbald de Pauncefort was captured by the Saracens. When asked the ransom price for his release the Turkish prince demanded the severed right hand of de Pauncefort's young bride, Eleanor. In a tremendous act of courage and sacrifice, Lady Eleanor complied, and had her left hand amputated and sent to ransom her husband.

In a sense, Jesus did all this for us, but He didn't just give His hand or His possessions—He gave His life. Theologian John R. W. Stott said, "The Gospel is good news of mercy to the undeserving. The symbol of the religion of Jesus is the cross, not the scales."

There is no way to measure or balance out what He has done for us. It is because of God's mercy and grace that He sent His Son to die for us. He paid the price of His life Himself. We must receive it if we are to experience the freedom He offers.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment... and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, March 27, 2016

Happy Easter!

Easter Breakfast 8:30 am
Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: ????, Ken Nice, Don Sharp, Fred Kerns
Alternate: Isaac Waters

No Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 30

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 31

W Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Lord's Supper Observance

Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters
Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Monday, April 4

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 6

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study 6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 7

Food Pantry Day

G Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

March 27— Breakfast—8:30 am

— Easter

— Diversicare 2:30 pm Canceled

April 1-3 — Immanuel Baptist Church Spring Revival

April 3 — Lord's Supper Observance in Morning Worship

April 4 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

April 7 — Grand Oaks Board Meeting

April 8-9 — WMU Annual Meeting @ Midwestern

April 13 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

April 16 — Keyboard Festival 9:00 am

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will not have Sunday Evening Service here tonight.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

Keyboard Festival

April 16th

Calvary Baptist Church

9 am—Noon

**I m m a n u e l B a p t i s t C h u r c h
S p r i n g R e v i v a l**

6920 Ollmeda Street,

St. Joseph, Missouri

April 1-3, 2016

April 1-2 April 3

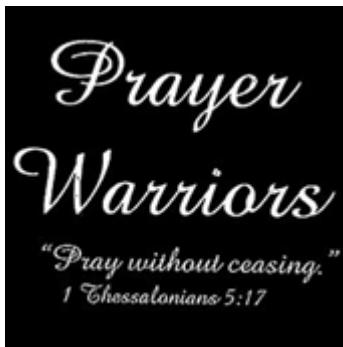
7:00 pm 10:45 am

***With Country Singer/Songwriter
Dale Johnston***

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®



Goal: \$70 million
Church Goal: \$ 1800.00
So Far: \$ 985.00



Wednesday, April 13
10:00 am
Here at the church.

For the Record-

Attendance: March 20, 2016

Sunday School.....	40
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	43
Contacts Made.....	6
Morning Worship.....	61
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night	N/A
Wednesday Night	16

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received... ..	\$ 986.37
Annie Armstrong.....	\$ 985.00

Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Keon McKahan Dorothy Post
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
