

Thank You!
Bruce Evans
Speaker today

New Christians...and Others Interested
“Foundation Lessons” Class
Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. at the church building
(Repeats on Saturdays at 3:30)

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman

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Worth & Value

By Bruce Evans

The ubiquitous coin jar, a fixture in homes around the world. At the close of the day, as pockets are emptied and purses made lighter, coins are removed and without much thought are casually tossed into some sort of collection vessel. There the coins accumulate until such a time as they are removed, taken to a “Coin-Star” machine where they are tallied up, a receipt is printed, then turned in for “real” paper money. It is assumed by the vast majority that the coins are worth a few cents each; face value. A dime is worth ten cents, and so on. However, there are some coins that have worth and value far beyond face worth.

While it is true that “back in the day” a dime could buy a full-size chocolate bar, a daily newspaper, a cup of coffee and so much more. A dime doesn’t go that far today, yet there are those who look beyond face value and see worth. Even if that coin may be a bit tarnished, abused and battered there remains value, and wise is the one who sees the worth.

“So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

Life can make even the strongest among us feel old, worn-out, battered and tattered. Regardless, God sees in each one worth and value. Consider the attitude being expressed in Isaiah 49:15. *“Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you.”*

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Jonah and the Love of God

By Joe Slater

There is a powerful visual illustration that is employed by instructors, motivational speakers and so forth, that conveys the value of the individual. The speaker takes out a crisp, new hundred-dollar bill, it is held up for all to see. The question is then asked, “who wants this?” Those in the audience raise their hand in hopeful anticipation. The speaker, then wads up the hundred-dollar bill, he asks the question again, the hands once again fly up in the air. Not done with the money, the speaker tosses it to the floor, and grinds it down under foot. By this time, the crispness has gone out the bill, it is somewhat dirty, and even torn at places around the edges. Nevertheless, hands still raised when asked who wants it. The lesson is obvious; no matter what was done to the money, it did not decrease in value.

“The Lord appeared to him from afar, saying, ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have drawn you with lovingkindness.’” (Isaiah 31:3) In the first chapter of 1Peter, Peter makes evident that worth and value on the part of God for all is seen in that He gave His Son to pay the price for our redemption (see verses 6-9, 17-25). In Romans the fifth chapter, Paul on his part succinctly wrote, *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (v 6) Previously it had been noted, *“we were still helpless”*, then a bit further in the chapter, *“we were enemies”*, yet in all this God saw worth and value. Praise be to God.

Try and not let the rigors of life drag you down so that you fail to see your worth and value. Take some time and look back at Matthew 6:25-34, and be reminded, *“Are you not worth more than they?”* Then consider, how Paul closes the sixth chapter of 1Corinthians. *“For you have been bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.”*

Before we criticize Jonah too severely, put ourselves in his place. God commanded him to preach to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian empire. Assyria was a fierce and dreaded enemy of Israel. I could make readers nauseous with details of the Assyrians’ cruelty to their enemies. The worse the pain they could inflict and the longer they could make it last, the better they liked it. No doubt Jonah would have been happy for God to wipe them from the face of the earth. Good riddance!

How would we react if God told us to go preach to Pyongyang (North Korea, ruled by Kim Jong-un)? Or to Kabul (Afghanistan, ruled by the Taliban)? Or to ISIS in parts of Syria? Jonah’s assignment had much in common with those.

Jonah was wrong to disobey God. Let there be no doubt about that! Jonah’s nationalism kept him from understanding God’s love for even the worst of sinners. God’s nature doesn’t change. Today He isn’t willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9); that was true in Jonah’s day too. The sheer ignorance of the Assyrians didn’t excuse their hideous abuses, but it did result in the Lord being longsuffering with them even as He was with Israel and still is with us.

Can we love people who hate us and would be all too happy to kill us if they could? Jesus prayed for the very people who were mocking and murdering Him. A few weeks later His blood cleansed some of them from their sins!

God loves the good and the evil, the just and the unjust, His love is perfect (complete, mature, Matthew 5:43-48). It’s nothing special to love those who love us (v. 46). But loving our enemies makes us more like God.