

# CHURCH

## Sunday School lesson

### THE WORTH OF EVERY PERSON

Matthew 10:28-31; Mark 2:23-3:6

"Fear ye not therefore, ye are more valuable than sparrows. (Matthew 10:31)

What is a person worth? To answer that question properly, one would have to categorize the answer in two parts. First, what is a person worth in God's eyes? Secondly what is a person worth in the eyes of the world? The answers to these questions will be vastly different. Humans, from the eyes of the world viewpoint, have been used as objects to achieve desired ends. History teaches us that persons have been enslaved, manipulated and deceitfully used by potentates and tyrants alike for personal gain. Historically, in the main, the world has never looked upon persons as having much value except for exploitive profit. Our

lesson for today is about the worth that God puts on a person. The Scripture passages given direct our study to how God values a person's worth from both human and spiritual standpoints.

### VALUING OUR EARTHLY LIVES.

(Matthew 10:28-31)

The world may put a small value on human life but these verses tell us that God places a very high value on people. Jesus speaks about it in terms of body and soul; the human body and the inward spiritual soul. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Verse 28) Jesus is saying to us that our great concern should be for our soul rather than our bodies.

Jesus is concerned for both; however. So much so that even the hairs on our head are numbered; He knows all about us. His measure of what is best for us is not necessarily the same as our measure. In fact, more than likely it is not. He wants us first to repent of our sin and become believers; becoming citizens of His Kingdom.

After we have been saved, He wants us to live lives according to His teachings; lives of faithfulness and obedience. How much value does God put on our body and soul? He values us so highly that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to die a horrible death on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, thereby enabling people to be redeemed to Himself, and a heavenly home after this life.

### LEGALISTIC RIGIDITY VERSES LOVE'S REGARD.

(Mark 2:23-3:6)

The Rabbis, through the centuries since, had added their interpretation to these beginning laws and by the time Jesus came they had become a staggering labyrinth of laws to guide their every action. With the coming of Christ, God made a new covenant to replace the old covenant of laws. The new covenant would be one of love and grace; it would be written in the hearts of people. Life under these laws bound the people and imprisoned them; life under the "love" covenant would free them.

Jesus said that He did not come to do away with God's law but to fulfill it; fill it full of grace and love. These verses teach us, by using two incidents in Jesus' life, how much worth God places on persons. The first event records Jesus and His disciples plucking some wheat grain from a field along the path they were traveling. The second event records Jesus healing a man with a

withered hand.

Both events happened on a Sabbath and according to Jewish law were unlawful because it constituted working on Sabbath day. Jesus answered His critics, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath day." Jesus established the

principle of people's worth guided by love. God created people in His own image—His highest creation—a little lower than the angels—worth dying for. How can we return Him less than our best? (Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

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## Church news

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. For the morning worship, the missionary hour, the senior and young adult choir combines singing under the direction of Larry Felton. Pastor J.H. London is preaching from the sub-

ject, "Necessities of '86" I Corinthians 13:13. A short testimonial period will be held during the morning worship.

A testimonial and retirement worship will be given by New Haven Missionary Baptist Church and the Perquimans County Fellowship Union for the Reverend Butler Sharp and his wife on Sunday, January 5, 1986 at 2:00 p.m. at New Haven Baptist Church. The Rev. John H. London, First Baptist Church, will be in charge of the worship. The Rev. Butler Sharp has served New Haven Missionary Baptist Church for the past seventeen years. He is a native of Pasquotank County, a devoted minister and pastor. He tries in every way to help others.

The public is cordially invited to attend!

Prior to the coming of God's Son, Jesus, God had given His people the Israelites laws by which they were to live. He began with the ten commandments and then later, enlarged these with additional laws given to Moses.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Dear Friends,**

We are often asked what one should do if death occurs to a loved one while on an out of town trip. Our answer is to call your local funeral director and let him help you by handling all of the removal arrangements and transportation home. It will be less expensive plus relieving you of the burden of making these arrangements when you are not thinking clearly.

Respectfully,  
*Larry Swindell*

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**“RESOLUTIONS”**

George Wilmore  
Pastor  
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

Personally I believe in vows. Christians, especially ought to make vows or set goals. New Years is a good time to make resolutions.

What does it take for a resolution? First, a noticeable need for change. Whether Christian or non-Christian our personal lives can stand some changes. There may be some emotions that need more control. There may be some habit that needs to be overcome; toleration, love, patience may need to be developed.

Second, resolutions ought to be shared. Some say, "I'm not making resolutions anymore, because I don't keep them." Some I inquired of said, "It's a secret." I suppose if they fail it's not so embarrassing. But if resolutions are shared with loved ones and honest caring friends one can lend strength to the other.

Third, there must be proper motivation. Why do I want to carry out this resolution or reach this goal? Will the resolution proposed add to my well being, or end a long standing conflict, or bring a smile to a hopeful mother? Surely selfishness or covetousness would be poor motives.

Fourth, where does God fit in? Moses records these words, "The eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." (Deut. 11:12) Well then as big as God is I would want him to help me with my resolution. King Solomon has this advice, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

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**Cards of Thanks**

The family of Beulah B. Wood would like to thank everyone for the flowers, food, calls, cards and everything that helped us during the death of our loved one. Many thanks also to the Perquimans County Rescue Squad. We are truly grateful. God bless you all.  
Husband, Children, and Grandchildren

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My sincere thanks to everyone for the many cards, letters, visits and other expressions of concern since my accident. A very special thanks to the Rescue Squad and my neighbors in Woodland Circle. I look forward to soon being back home in Hertford.  
Mary S. White

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A sincere thank you to everyone for the visits, letters, cards, and the other expressions of your thoughtfulness during my recent stay in the hospital.  
Raymond Schofield

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