

Series: The Great Commission 1

Title: The Value of a Soul

Text: (Matt 28:19-20) (Luke 15:10*)

Starfish Story: *“Made a difference for that one.”*

We all long for Significance.

We want our lives to make a difference.

For We, who know the Lord; we Long for others to Him also.

7 Billion people on the planet.

How can we actually make a difference?

Witness to 100 people a day, take 4000years to complete.

Not all of them would respond.

We all have people in our OWN families who wont listen.

God’s word tells us that we re Commanded/Commissioned to go tell others the Gospel.

Not just the church, but individual Christian is commissioned

This is a privilege.

Not every Christian is called to Pastor.

Not every Christian is called to Foreign Missions.

Not every Christian is called to be a Teacher.

EVERY Christian is called to go to others & personally deliver the Life changing, souls saving Gospel of Jesus Christ

When we take it personally to Obey this command, God uses our witness to make an Eternal difference.

Like the Man is our story, we can look around and see a task larger than our very lives.

We see in our own community the vast number of people, and stagger at the idea that we could make any dent in it.

OR! We can heed Christ’s call.

Rely on the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Personally Share the Gospel.

Focus on making a difference, One Life @ a Time!

Teach that ONE to do the Same!

Illus: Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s quote.

After the attacks on Sept 11th, 2001, mayor shared thoughts.

“When everybody was fleeing that building; the cops, firefighters, and the EMS people were heading up into it, do you think any of them said...

‘I wonder how many blacks are out there for us to save?’

‘I wonder what percentage are Whites up there?’

‘How many Jews are up there?’

‘Are these people making 400,000 a year we're 24,000?’

No! When you're saving lives, they're all precious.

I'm convinced that God wants us to value every human life the way he does.”

He was speaking about Physical life, but is just as true in regard to rescuing people from an eternity apart from God.

“I’m convinced that God wants us to value every human life the way he does.”

To Ignore this Commission is to be a Disobedient, Rebellious Child of God.

You are not right with God if you do not value every human life like God does.

In Luke 15: Christ’s parables explain the value of even 1 soul.

I. The Value of One Soul: (Luke 15)

(Luke 15:4-7) The Lost Sheep
(Luke 15:8-10) The Lost Coin
(Luke 15:11-32) The Lost Son
(Luke 15:10) *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

Why is the Soul so valuable?

Think of its..

Creativity: Because of WHO Made it!

(Gen 1:27) *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

(Ps 139:14) *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; ...*

Illus: Momma kept all my art work!

Think of its..

Potentiality: Because of What it can Become!

(Rom 8:29) *Molded into Christ's Image.*

Michael Angelo didn't see a block of Marble, but an Angel.

Illus: Acres of Diamonds - Crater of Diamonds State Park in Southern Arkansas.

(Phil 4:13) *I can do all things through Christ which...
What is outside of GOD POSSIBLE? - Nothing.*

Think of its..

Durability: Because How Long It Will Last: Eternity

(Matt 10:28) *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Think of its..

Rarity: Because there are No Duplicates! (1 Pet 2:9-10) *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

(1 Cor 12:27) *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

Think of its..

Desirability: Because Value is determined by what you would give in exchange for it.

(Matt 16:26) *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

What is the Going Rate for a Human Soul?

(1 Pet 1:18-19) *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

A. Remember: The Soul is Eternal

We don't usually get up in the morning and think about it. Since Sin entered the world, our bodies decay and die.

Our soul will never die.

Satan actively works to distract people about our impending death and eternity to follow.

Even the best life without Christ will bring the Worst Eternity.

(Mark 8:36) *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

We must remember, that every person has an Eternal Soul that will spend Eternity Somewhere.

B. Remember: Heaven and Hell are Real:

(Luke 16:22-24)

Jesus spoke more about Hell than He did Heaven.

Those who do not trust Jesus as their Savior will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire: (Rev 20:15) *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of*

Those who receive Christ's gift of salvation will spend eternity in Heaven: (1 Pet 1:3-5) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Just as Lost people forget that they have an eternal soul,
We Christians forget that every single person;

Family, Friends, Neighbors, Co-Workers,
the guy who walks his dog every morning,

Will spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell.

C. Remember: Jesus is the only way of Salvation:

(John 14:16) *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

A Man may go to heaven without health, wealth, honors, Education, or friends; but he can never go there w/o Christ.

When we were lost, we came to realize our lost condition and that Christ was our only hope for Salvation.

We turned from our efforts and received Jesus Christ as our Savior.

We live in a Pluralistic society.

This world bristles at the Christ's claim of exclusivity.

Most people are content to let christians think they are 1 of many valid options to reach God.

But when we declare, as Peter did...

(Acts 4:12) *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

The World Cries FOUL!!!

In a world that says.. "all roads lead to Heaven" its easy to feel the pressure to band our message of the gospel in hopes of not offending the people we love.

But the fact IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN

We can be a consistent witness for Christ.

We must allow these convictions to Grab our Soul!

A person has an eternal soul:

Heaven and Hell are real:

Jesus is THE ONLY Way to Heaven;

We must Believe them, and Remember them.

We Must learn to see people;
Not as masses but as Eternal souls for which Christ died,
Who will spend an eternity somewhere.

We are responsible to share that message with others.

We can make a Difference.