

Feed One Sunday pt 1: Image Based Value

Intro: Housing Market Values and Reasoning

- Karen and I recently moved
- We sold the house we lived in (south city) for 10 years for almost the exact amount we bought it for
 - a lot of factors went into that, there was the housing market crash.....
 - foreclosures around us.....
 - persistent problems in city public schools...
- we bought a home here in the neighborhood by the church

- 17 months into our new home, a house across the street went for sale
 - 50k more than we bought for
 - wow talk about a hot market.... Does that mean our house is worth that???**

-Not so fast, there are factors that make that house MORE VALUABLE

- they have those granite counter tops and updated appliances
- they added an entire room to the back of their house making it larger
- but most of all they have an IN-GROUND POOL in their backyard

(wish I had known about the pool earlier, I would have tried to become friends lol)

-There are many factors that make one house more valuable than another:

-Two houses can look identical, but have very different values based on market factors.

-Sometimes a house's value can vary without the traditional factors, based instead on WHO ONCE LIVED THERE.

-(SHOW HOUSE PICTURE)

- this house is operating as a museum so we don't know the real value, the government charges people money to walk through it
- if it were sold again it would probably be worth millions
- This is the House Where JOHNNY CASH GREW UP

-Sometimes there are things like this that turn the whole market valuing system upside down, ascribing value traditional factors cannot account for.

-Luke 15: 1-2 & 8-10 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.".....
8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

-Jesus tells this parable and two others in direct response to the Religious leaders questioning of the value of people Jesus was paying attention to.

-In this parable the woman represents God

- they would have assumed that if you lost a penny you would just move on,, its hardly worth bending down over
- its definitely not worth diligently searching in the dirt in a darkened room
 - the floor*: dirt & -loose thatch and palm leaves....

-SIFTING through all that for a penny sounded crazy

-There were entire groups and types of people that these religious leaders equated to the coin. They wrote those people off.

-and they assumed God wrote these people off as well

-The parable challenges their idea of who does and doesn't matter.

-In this parable we see God's heart for people that who may appear to matter less.

-now that you have the overview we will break down the individual parts of this parable.

Darkness is the state of this world, but not an indictment of God.

-In this parable one major cause of the Lostness of the coin is how dark the house is.

-it tells us that she lights a candle to aid in her search

-(Explain what this house would have looked like:)

-would have been made from mud or stone joined with mud...

-there would have been 1 WINDOW roughly 18 inches wide

-it would have been dim and shadowy in that house

-there is more than enough light outside, but only so much light makes it inside

-There are a lot of conditions in this world that could be considered darkness.

-some people don't have access to clean water

-some people go without food

-in some places people do not have access to Education

-in some places people of differing ethnic groups and mistreated and overlooked

-sometimes darkness plays out purely in physical conditions

-sometimes there is also a spiritual component to darkness

-We can look at the world and see examples of people who are like the coin lost in the dust.

-it cant appear that the world itself has written these people off

-it might even look like they matter less to God because of the conditions they live in

-Why would God allow it?

-but the dim house lighting, in this parable, is not the fault of the SUN

-the sun is bright enough but the window is too small!!! not enough light is getting in

-someone used raw materials and built that house in such a way that it only allowed a small amount of light in

-Genesis 1:27-28 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and **govern it**. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

-God created this beautiful big ball in space and positioned us on it. God assigned the care, cultivation, and governing of earth to us.

-he gave the raw material and potential for everything we have and more

-then he made us responsible to cultivate all of this into something good

-So when the people, cultures, and countries of the world are broken and ugly things happen; did God allow it or did we allow it?

-When we understand God's value system, we can begin to bring light and beauty to areas of the world where darkness currently reigns.

-We are the assigned caretakers. Jesus has come to shed light on God's heart again so that we can cultivate this world into something that will honor God.

Point: God's value system is all together different than ours.

-Our cultural mindset creates a system by which we subconsciously determine the value of people.

-individuals. -groups

-generations. -political groups. -economic groups. -sometimes races and ethnicities

-we usually do this without even recognizing it

-if we are called on it we usually explain it away.....

-Our cultural Value System looks a lot like the Housing Market.

-your value as a person depends some on where you come from (location...)

-value is somewhat derived by what you look like

-value can be determined by how productive we are

-we don't have to be pretty if we are crazy good at our job ,, or rich....

-the family you come from sometimes determines value

-The more like us someone is, the more likely we are to ascribe value to them.

-this is why when we hear about a catastrophe in a poor place, in a part of the world where people don't look like us,,,, it does not seem to bother us as much

-Admitting this doesn't make you a monster. This is somehow part of the water we swim in, the air we breath. (conditioned with it)

-its not right but it is true about us

-example: -during the 18 months of tainted water crisis, in Flint Mi. 12 people died.... **(people are still talking about this 5 years later**

-during that same 18 months in developing countries around the world 1,243,000 people are estimated to have died from drinking tainted water

-but which figure has been the source of greater outrage for us?

-in the developing world a person dies from issues related to tainted water every 40 seconds

-but we don't talk about that in the same way we talk about 12 Americans

-None of this is to make us feel guilty. I sincerely want us to be able to face that fact that we have inherited a Personal Market Value system that attributes more value to some people than to others.

-sometimes the value factors are outside of persons control.....

-but often the value factors are things people can control

-we view some people to have made poor choices, or to have been lazy, or immoral then their hardship does not register the same with us, as it does when we see people as being "good upstanding worthwhile people"

-Please resist the urge for Defensiveness, guilt, shame.....

-This is an inherited system. Feeling guilty about it makes as much sense as feeling guilty about your shoe size.

-But Jesus told this parable to point out this system and invite us to walk toward something better.

-God does not have a market based value system for you.

-productive people are not loved more than unproductive ones

- pretty people are not more valuable in his kingdom
- wealthy people's problems don't matter more than poor people's problems

-The lesson of this parable is not that God is a penny pincher.

-This single coin had a value to this woman unrelated to its financial value.

- she did not search for it because of its monetary value

-In that culture and time women were given a gift on their wedding day:

- 10 of these coins joined together on a band and made into a HEADBAND or a NECKLACE.

- they would wear this thing in their wedding ceremony

-the closest equivalent we have would be a wedding dress

- this was like their wedding dress but they would keep it to look at
- they would often wear it
- it was a reminder of their promise, their bond, their love, their family

-This coin was part of a physical picture of an unconditional life long love that someone promised to them and that they promised to someone else.

-that love is IDENTITY BASED

-Genesis tells us that we were made in God's image and likeness.

-Every human being was made from a DEPOSIT of the IDENTITY of God himself.

-our value to God is uniformly derived from that

-Illustration:

- I love my kids because they are my kids

- they are smart and funny and well mannered and talented.....

-all of that stuff is awesome it makes life less of a challenge, but I loved them before they did any of that stuff

-My love for them is identity based

-God's love for the human race is based on the fact that he is our Father and we are his children. We were uniquely created in his image.

-The heart of God breaks for every person who dies of starvation, water born illness, or is trafficked and exploited, **the same way our heart would break if it were our child.**

-his heart breaks when people suffer hardship and tragedy that is not their fault
-and his heart breaks when people suffer hardship and tragedy that they bring on themselves.

-This isn't just about the third world: Many of us are like dumb kids who pull boiling pots down off a stove onto ourselves, through our sin.

-I want you to know that the heart of God breaks for that also and Jesus came to bring light into that kind of darkness as well

Jesus invites us into God's value system.

-Jesus' entire life is a picture of God's value system

-hungry -the sick. -morally corrupt and confused. -valuing children women and other people thought to be inconsequential -lepers, crippled people, and beggars
-zealots -fishermen. -prostitutes -prophets like John the Baptist
-traitorous tax collectors -and hypocritical and misguided pharisees
-they were all the focus of Jesus's time, energy, attention, and LOVE
-they all mattered

-As we live in relationship with Jesus, learning from his teaching and imitating the things he did; we will move toward God's Value System.

-there will be Breakthrough Moments

-we will realize that we have attributed LESS VALUE to some people and some groups
-we will have to sort through how to proceed

-sometimes the action needed will be clear

-With this opportunity of Feed One.

-there are children around the world living with the reality of regular hunger and malnutrition ,,,, we have the ability to change that for some.

-GOD LIKE LOVE means we respond AS IF IT WERE OUR KID,,, we ascribe immeasurable value to that kid BECAUSE GOD DOES

-You cannot feed every hungry kid in the world, but I bet you could feed 1.

-But I want more for us out of this teaching, than simply signing up to feed a kid. (thats huge!!!! But I want more)

-I want us to take deliberate steps away from the Market Based Value system of this world and,,, toward the Image of God Based Value system.

-I want us to see, value, love, and act toward people in response to the value God places on them.

Closing

-Remember that House at the Beginning: Johnny Cash house

-humble. -not nice. -no features. -none of the normal factors

-But it is probably worth Millions. (some might say priceless)

-Its value is derived completely in **who's it was**. There is not a person with breath in their lungs who is not the PRICELESS Son or Daughter of God.

-May God enable us to more readily see that value and think and act accordingly.