

# Feed One Sunday pt 2: Impractical Love and Harvest

## Recap:

-Last week we discussed the Idea that **We all come preconditioned with a Market Based Personal Value system**

-**in other words** there are many different factors (some performance, some inherent) these factors figure together to determine your value to the rest of the human race

-**Uncomfortable as the idea is,,,, Certain people matter to society more than others**

-There are lots of different reasons: some reason are more innocent and some are a little grosser when said out loud, but none the less that is reality

-**its wrong but it is true**

-**We talked last week about not feeling guilty because:**

-*Its like your shoe size,,, it is yours but it was not determined by you...*

-We talked last week about the fact that Jesus came to call us away from that market based personal value system.

-**We are valuable because we are MADE in GODS IMAGE,,,,** Every human being is the SACRED SON OR DAUGHTER of the Eternal God

-**We are valuable because of WHOS we ARE**

-Jesus invites us to value other people the way God values us.

-So that his how Image Based value should cause us to think and feel, but what should **Image Based Value cause us to do?** *That is what we will explore today....*

## -Stats:

-Before we get into all that I want to share a few statistics with you.

-approximately 21,000 people a day die from hunger related causes

-that means that every 3.6 seconds someone will die from hunger

-1 out of every 3 people on the planet is dealing with some level of food insecurity

-some of those are actually starving

-some are chronically malnourished

-some just never know for sure when the next meal will be.....

-**For most of us this is not “New Information”.** *(the exact numbers might be new, but not the concept)*

-We know this problem exists.

-we have all seen the pictures and videos. -we have heard similar statistics

**-When a problem is this pervasive it can Overwhelm us and cause us to feel there is nothing that can be done.**

*-When the need is this big, how can we Engage without being overwhelmed?*

-Luke 15:3-ff Then Jesus told them this parable: Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says Rejoice with me: I have found my lost sheep. I tell you that in the same way there will be rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

**Point: God's love for people is not practical or fair.**

-There are so many things in life that we should do, even though they are Impractical.

-displaying Love and Affection for your spouse is often impractical

-flowers are not practical, but they are beautiful

-romantic dinners are not practical,,,, candles are a very inefficient light source

-driving a convertible down a country road in the fall is not practical,,, but it is GOOD,,, a motorcycle is often highly impractical,,, but it can be very good.....

-Going on dates and having conversations is not the most practical way to find a spouse, a PERSONAL SPREADSHEET would be more efficient ,,,,

-think about how much more efficient dating would be if it were comparing spreadsheets:

*-Its not you,,, and its not me,,,, we just have conflicting spreadsheets*

- until that magical day when someone's c1. D3 and L 4-11 cells all match yours exactly.

**(i hear wedding bells)**

*-most of the good and beautiful parts of life are not practical*

-But, when it impacts people we are close to, we recognize how practical it can be, to be impractical.

**-unforgettable experiences are usually highly impractical**

**-The problem is that most of us have a fairly small number of people we are willing to be impractical for.**

-But in this parable Jesus is calling us to a love for people that is willing to be Impractical for the Sake of others.

-*Sheep Sense*

-If you are a shepherd with 100 sheep and 1 sheep wanders off, leaving the 99 and hunting down the 1 sheep **is not practical.**

**-why?**

-because while you are looking for the 1, some of the other 99 will wander  
*-you could return with the 1, only to find that others are now missing!!!!!!*

**-Putting 99 sheep in greater risk to rescue 1 seems foolish until you are the 1.**

*-At some point all of those sheep will wander off and need to be found.*

**-That is actually what a shepherds job was!**

-if it were not for that, he is not needed,,,, because: sheep feed themselves,, dress themselves,, go to the bathroom themselves,, they don't need anybody to put them to bed or wake them up.

**-Sheep wander with their head down following the grass,  
-getting lost is what they do!**

-Jesus is using this parable to show that God's love for us is completely impractical and heartbreakingly beautiful.

&

**-Jesus is inviting us into God's value system.**

-to love people the way God does is not just to feel like God feels  
-it means responding like God responds

**Problem**

**-You cannot do this shepherd type response for everyone everywhere all the time.**

-this creates a problem for us

**-We are raised to value Fairness.**

-we tell our kids *"I cannot buy you a new bike because I don't have enough to buy a bike for all your siblings and that would not be fair."*

**-For some reason we develop the Idea that we should not do for One what cannot be done for Everyone.**

-we think like Oprah "you get a car, and you get a car, and you get car.... Everyone is getting a car..."

-So when we find ourselves in situations where we could do something for One, we question whether or not we should because we cannot do it for Everyone.

**QUESTION: *Is it fair for the Shepherd to leave the 99 unattended to look for the 1? No***

**-but don't you love that he does it????? Isn't it GOOD!**

-Fairness is never a word used to describe the gospel of Jesus.

-the Gospel is the Essence of Unfairness

-Jesus was perfectly good and was punished and died

-we are flawed, sinful, and bad, and we get to experience his reward while he endured our punishment

-for us FAIRNESS would be death and judgment

-Thank God that he is unfair with us.

-Grace and Mercy, by definition will never be fair.

-not when God pours them out on us

-not when we pour them out on others

-So we do for one what we cannot do for everyone and then we trust the Vastness of God for the rest.

-you don't have to have a strategy for saving your whole neighborhood just be the shepherd and go after the 1 God has put in front of you

-you don't have to end childhood hunger worldwide just be the shepherd and do for 1 what you wish you could do for everyone and trust God with the rest

-you don't have to be the support structure to every broken person in the world, just love the One that God seems to have given you influence with

*-Question: With So much need in the world how do we know where and when to get involved?*

-Galatians 6:9-10 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

**Point: Opportunity is often the Invitation from God to dispense his Grace.**

-What a great caution. Don't get worn out in trying to do good.

-One of the biggest causes of emotional and material fatigue is when we carry burdens for situations that we have no opportunity in.

-some of you know people who are those sheep who have wandered off and their life is a total mess

-and you are carrying a weight. -worry for them. -talk with them but they don't listen

-you have tried so many things to help, but to no avail

-it's frustrating and exhausting, because you are trying to *move a car that you don't have keys to*

*-its off,, its in park,,, you are up against it rocking it,,, bouncing it,,, trying from low,,, trying from high,,,,, getting a running start..... None of it makes any difference*

**-there are many situations, that while you are aware of them, you don't have any influence over them or opportunity with them**

*-maybe you are not close enough*

*-maybe the person isn't ready to change.....*

*-This is one of the hurdles of the social media age: We have exposure to problems and people that we have no real influence or opportunity with.*

-through social media you know the problems of thousands of people, that's historically unprecedented

-It used to be that people were only in your life when they were in your life.

*-now I know when people that I have not seen in real life in 25 years get cancer,,, or divorced,,, or their car gets stolen,,, when their kids get married, when their kids get sick.....*

**-through social media the circle of problems we're exposed to is ever expanding, but in reality you have little or no influence or opportunity in most of those situations.**

*-exposure to all of that causes problem fatigue : we become numb , or too exhausted for the Opportunities we really have.*

-The first thing to ask when we see a problem is whether or not we have real opportunity to do good.

-the next question is **what is the nature of my opportunity**

-is this an opportunity for real material support? (am I fixing a widows car). Helping a friend with their electric bill.....

-is this an opportunity for me to encourage this person as they navigate this?

-is this person looking for Direction?,,, AND are they ready to ACT ON DIRECTION...?

*-am I qualified to give them direction?*

—*All of this answers the question: what is the nature of this opportunity?*

*-Does this mean we should start blowing people and problems off?*

-No it just means that we need to be clear about what our opportunity is in situations

-often all I can do is offer a compassionate “I am sorry”

-and I can pray for God to do what only he can do in that situation

-then **leave it with God** knowing that he has a solution for that even if it is not me!!!

-If we're WEIGHED DOWN by problems we have no opportunity with, our capacity to respond to real opportunity will be diminished or even destroyed.

**-practical-**

-When you encounter the personal and material problems of the people around you:

-Listen to them, pause, and honestly pray, “God what is my opportunity here”

-then respond in line with the opportunity God is actually giving you

-When you encounter problems like we are focused on right now with FEED ONE.

-every 3.6 seconds someone is dying from hunger related things!

**-Is there REAL Opportunity?**

-yes for \$10 a month I can feed a kid and change their life and future permanently

-Is the opportunity REAL and SUSTAINABLE,,, Yeah

*-we are not just going to throw money to feel better,,, is this really making a difference*

-Finally,,, Do I have the available resource to do it.

-As you answer those questions you can determine if real opportunity exists.

- If opportunity exists, then it is an opportunity to follow Jesus in God like love.
- the kind of love that leaves the 99 to go after the 1...

## **Point: Engaging with God ordained opportunities sets a process in motion that brings Harvest.**

-Again I love how Galatians says it “dont get worn out because at the proper time you will reap a harvest if you do not give up”

-There are always seasons between our Opportunity and the development of the Harvest we hope for.

*-that is why Paul uses the Crop metaphor:*

- you wouldn't plant corn and come back in 10 minutes and be bummed that nothing grew
- you know **there is TIME and PROCESS that needs to happen**

-When we seize opportunity to love hurting people we must realize that GOD BRINGS the HARVEST, not us.

**-there is usually time between what we do, and what we want to see from it**

-But if God gave you opportunity, and you were faithful with it, then you must trust his process.

-When God gives us opportunity and we dispense his Grace, that is a seed sown in Soil that God himself tends.

-there will be a harvest!

-Interpersonally with people, when you have those opportunities to Dispense Gods Grace.

*-what he says is “dont get worn out, just be faithful to whatever the opportunity is, and know that the appointed time of HARVEST will come.”*

**-some of us need to be reminded of this about our kids,,, our neighbors,,, our spouse,,, that beloved friend,,,, your grace has planted a seed that GOD HIMSELF TENDS**

**-Finally as it applies to our opportunity today for FEED ONE:**

-the need is real

-the opportunity God has given us to meet the need is REAL....

-there is REAL HOPE HERE,,, THERE IS FERTILE SOIL HERE

**-every dollar we invest will have eternal harvest**

-kids who are not eating now will eat

-they will learn how to grow their own food, they will learn balanced nutrition

-their mothers will be empowered to earn money

-the CYCLE of POVERTY will be BROKEN WITH THEM

**-they will meet Jesus through this process**

-The grace of God that we get to pour out here will change their lives NOW and for all of ETERNITY

-What the shepherd did for the 1 was not practical. But it was unimaginably beautiful.

-You cannot change the life of every hungry kid in the world, but can do so for 1.

-We have to mentally let go of all the issues we stress over that we have *no keys for those cars.....*

-But let's grab ahold of the real opportunities we do have.

-if the need is real. -if the opportunity is real. -if we have the resource to respond

**-then lets sow a seed into this soil that God is tending AND ONLY ETERNITY WILL SHOW US THE FULL HARVEST that results**