

THE VALUE OF THE SOUL

Text: Mark 8:36-37

INTRO: Our text speaks of profit. Ah, now there's a subject we can all take an interest in. With just about every decision we make day by day we consciously or subconsciously ask ourselves, "What's in it for me?".

The 2 questions in our text are rhetorical questions. Webster: "a question asked merely for effect with no answer expected." Jesus was in effect saying that the man who loses his soul has lost everything, even if for a time he had gained the whole world.

- I. THE WORLD. What is involved?
 - A. Material things: houses, lands, factories, mines, stocks, bonds, investments...
 - B. Fame, popularity, educational degrees... What if a person gained all these things & more at the expense of his soul? He would be poor in deed for he would come to the end of his life with nothing at all.
 - C. Of course, no one ever gained the whole world or ever will, but some have tried. Alexander the great, Napoleon, Hitler...
 - D. But we should be able to comprehend that if the man who gains the **whole world** at the expense of his soul has made a bad bargain, surely we can see the utter foolishness of bartering away our souls for far less: a moment's pleasure, a round of applause, or other fleeting things.
- II. THE SOUL. It's value.
 - A. The value of the soul is suggested in its origin. Of all the things in heaven & earth, only the human soul is made in the image of God. Gen 1:26-27; Acts 17:28.
 - B. The human soul is of great value because of its incredible capabilities.

Gen 11:6, And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what

they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

1. Look at the marvelous inventions we take for granted that were unheard of 2 or 3 generations ago: computers, digital cameras, DVDs, microwaves, fax machines, cell phones...

NOTE: A.O. Raney & the telephone

2. Think of all the great advances in medicines & health care.
3. Who knows what other great discoveries lie just around the corner.

C. The human soul is of great value because it is one of the few things that will endure forever.

2 Cor 4:16-18, Therefore we do not lose heart. Even tho our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding & eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1. Jesus used several illustrations to demonstrate the value of lasting, spiritual things as opposed to the fleeting material things of this world. JN 6:27 (food); JN 4:13-14 (liv- ing water); MT 6:19-20 (treasure); MT 10:28 (fear).
2. Herein lies the chief problem with the world & its gains.

1 John 2:15-17, Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that

is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, & the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, & the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

D. But the greatest evidence regarding the value of the human soul come with a realization of the price that was paid to redeem us from sin.

1. The Son of God left heaven in all its glory & came to earth because He valued our souls.

2 Cor 8:9, Tho He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

2. He, who as Deity could not be tempted to sin, James 1:13, became flesh & underwent the same trials, tribulations, & problems that are common to man. John 1:1-3, 14; Heb. 4:15.

3. He died in our place because He valued our souls. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.

III. WE CANNOT GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD—BUT THERE IS THE DISTINCT DANGER THAT WE MIGHT LOSE OUR SOULS. Jesus came & bled & died to save our souls—but we must cooperate.

A. Become a Christian. H-B-R-C-B

B. Be faithful, Rev 2:12, or be restored, Acts 8:22; 1 JN 1:9

La Porte, TX, May 17, 1981

La Porte, TX, July 3, 1988

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 16, 1993

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 5, 2004