

VALUE

Valentines Day has just passed and I overheard a young man who hasn't yet found a girlfriend say that he thinks he is too fussy. I couldn't help but ask him why! He said, "Pastor, most of the girls I meet do not have the same value system." My response was, "that's fine, but surely you wouldn't know what a person really values until you know them well." If you think another Christian will automatically have the same values as you have, you may find yourself getting very disappointed. Often we confuse moral or ethical values with personal values. And it's the personal values that are far more important in any relationship. Each of us will have to make choices based on what we feel is "priority" in each specific situation we encounter. These priorities are very likely to be driven by the **value** we place upon things or people. God is very open about what He places most value on. Therefore, as we grow in our relationship with Him we get to know what His priorities are! In Matthew 6:26 Jesus said, ***"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"***

Notice, the Lord did not say that He doesn't value the birds of the air. After all, He cares for them by making sure they are well fed! However, He places greater value on you and me! In this passage (Matthew 6:25-34), we see clearly that our Heavenly Father's priority is to provide our basic necessities. And the reason for that is because He values us greatly! However, the theme here is not value but worry. Verse 25 says, ***"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"*** Can you see something? If you do not know how much God values you, you will never overcome worry – you will always be anxious about something or other. That is why Jesus follows His previous statement with (verse 30), ***"Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"***

What Jesus is implying here is this... If we cannot comprehend the great value God places on us, we can never have great faith. Great value = great faith! Therefore, it is so important that we do not get God's priorities mixed up. No matter what is going on in your life right now, your Heavenly Father has a list of promises He wants to fulfil in order for you to have a prosperous and victorious life. That is top of His priority list! And nothing can change it! If you cannot comprehend how valuable you are in God's sight, you will always end up worrying about every little thing and living in unbelief. However, I want to encourage you to stop looking for value in the wrong places. You have a Heavenly Father who has already made you His first priority, and in His divine value system you are number one!