

Viewing and Valuing Ourselves

Judges 6 and Luke 18

Introduction:

- A. Most every problem can be traced to s_____ worth (how we view and value ourselves).
 - 1. Kids tend to get their sense of worth from their p_____
 - 2. Men tend to get their sense of worth from their j_____ or their achievements.
 - 3. Women tend to get their sense of worth from r_____
 - 4. Many get their sense of worth from their l_____
- B. Many believers have been deceived into thinking that they have to do something in order to have a healthy sense of worth.
 - 1. Our study today uncovers the myths that Gideon held to about his own significance.
 - 2. Our study will reveal the truth of how believers ought to view and value themselves.

Myth 1: Self-worth comes from what others say about you (Jdg 6:15)

- A. The situation
 - 1. God was punishing the people of Israel for their i_____ by the oppression of the Midianites.
 - 2. After ____ years of oppression, Israel cried to God
 - 3. The angel of the Lord comes to Gideon in the form of a man to tell him that he has been chosen by God to deliver Israel from this oppression.
- B. Gideon's response
 - 1. *My family is the l_____ in Manasseh*
 - a. Manasseh was a half tribe and was extremely s_____. It was considered the least of all tribes.
 - b. Gideon's family was the most i_____ family (either poorest, or weakest.)
 - 2. *I am the y_____ in my father's house.*
 - a. Gideon r_____ himself as the lowest person in the family.
 - b. He was basically saying that he was a bad c_____.
- C. Application – do you place importance on what others say about you?
 - 1. Today's Miss America would not even qualify for a beauty contest_____ years ago.
 - 2. Cultures vary on what beauty is (see Song of Solomon 7:4)
 - 3. Our looks c_____
 - 4. Never pick a human standard to measure your worth.

Myth 2: Self-worth comes from what you do (Lk 18:9-12)

- A. The Pharisee thought himself to be important because of what he did:
 - 1. F _____ twice per week (fasting was never commanded by God, except possibly on the Day of Atonement – Lev 16:29)
 - 2. T _____ EVERYTHING he received
 - 3. M _____ better than others.
- B. Jesus said that the Pharisee went home c _____ by God.
- C. Application – do you place importance on your successes or failures?
 - 1. Academics – making the honor roll or not
 - 2. Athletics – reaching performance goals or not
 - 3. Peer pressure – doing things to p _____ your friends.

Truth 1: Self-worth comes from what God says about you (Jdg 6:12-15)

- A. The angel of the Lord gives God's word to Gideon, calling him a valiant w _____.
 - 1. Many wrongly conclude that God saw the p _____ in Gideon.
 - 2. God was not looking for someone with military potential but with a willingness to be u _____ by God.
- B. The angel of the Lord assures Gideon in several ways:
 - 1. The Lord is w _____ you (v. 12). Gideon did not believe this because of all that had happened to Israel by the Midianites.
 - 2. The Lord will be your s _____ (v. 14)
 - 3. The Lord's presence and power will make it so that you defeat Midian as _____ man.
- C. Application – what does God say about you who are believers in Christ?
 - 1. 2 Cor 5:17 – You are a n _____ creation and your past is not to be a worth factor in your present life (the old is gone).
 - 2. Jn 1:12 – You are a c _____ of God. Your earthly family is not a worth factor in your present life. There is no better family to be part of than God's family.
 - 3. 1 Cor 1:2 – You are a s _____
 - a. This has nothing to do with our g _____.
 - b. This has everything to do with what God did to us:
 - 1) He set us apart from the w _____ by bringing us into a personal relationship with Him through Jesus (1 Cor 1:30)
 - 2) He set us apart for s _____ to Him (2 Tim 2:21)

Truth 2: Self-worth comes from what God has done for you (Lk 18:13,14)

- A. The tax collector viewed himself through God's eyes
 - 1. He called himself THE s _____ - He did not c _____ himself to others as the Pharisee did.

2. He pleaded for God's m_____ to lift him out of his worthlessness.
- B. Jesus said that the tax collector went home j_____ (literally means to be declared righteous).
- C. Application
1. Jesus did all the w_____ to bring worth to a person.
 - a. He suffered and died to pay for all your s_____.
 - b. He rose from the dead to p_____ His work as successful.
 2. If you are not a believer in Christ, see yourself before God as THE sinner and plead for God's mercy – Jesus promises that He will r_____ NOBODY that comes to Him in faith (Jn 6:37).
 3. If you are a believer in Christ, find your w_____ in Christ (1 Cor 1:30,31 – only in Him can we boast, not in ourselves).

Conclusion:

- A. The world's formula for a healthy self-worth
1. The starting point – *I need to BE someone special*
 2. The process – *I must DO something important*
 3. The result – Dependent on MY ability or the approval of OTHERS
- B. God's formula for a healthy self-worth
1. The starting point – *I am already someone special IN CHRIST.*
 2. The process - *I must TRUST in what God says about me.*
 3. The result – doing what GOD wants.