

Message for Sunday, May 11, 2025

Mother's Day

Scripture: Proverbs 12:23; Proverbs 17: 17

Title: How Valuable Are You?

Welcome

Announcements: Giving Options-online, QR code, basket, box in back etc. Special offering this month is Verde Valley Sanctuary. New Members class on the 18th? Not sure if it is on or off at this time..., Our next movie for Friday Night Flicks is America's Sweethearts.

Fellowship of Love Song

Call to Worship

L: The God of love and grace invites us in.

P: Blessed be the God of love!

L: The God of power and might welcomes us here.

P: Glory to God on high!

L: The God of wisdom and truth speaks to us now.

P: Praise the One who speaks the truth to our hearts!

Unison Prayer

Shepherding God, guide us in this time of worship.

Help us receive your wisdom and respond with lives of faithful discipleship.

Walk closely with us and help us feel your constant presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Offering/Song

Scripture: Proverbs 12:23; Proverbs 17:17

²³One who is clever conceals knowledge, but the mind of a fool broadcasts folly.

¹⁷A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity.

L: The word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: How valuable are you?

For my own safety I often remind Katie that I am still worth more alive than dead. What I mean by this is that I am still projected to earn more money than a life

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insurance payout. I know some of you are past that value point, in that case make sure you give to the church from your will. When we talk about someone being of value in our society today this is often what we quite literally mean. We mean how much money they are worth or how much potential income they can bring in.

This is a natural development of living in a capitalist society. Everything becomes monetized. People are constantly pushed to monetize their hobbies that way there is no wasted time. The emphasis is on what value do people bring to their relationships, jobs, or even church. The topic of economic value is one that has been talked about quite a lot by my colleagues in disability studies, and let us be honest I see this in the schools as well. The care that we give to people with disabilities has nothing to do with their intrinsic worth or what they can teach us, instead their value is in how much money they can make or how they can be monetized and made to spend money.

In the school this happens. Kids ask, "why should I learn this?" not because they genuinely want to know but because unless you can place a dollar sign on it they are not interested. They want to know when will I ever use angles in my normal life, or why do I need to know that about chemicals. The value of the learning is not the learning itself it is in what it provides.

Under the surface of this fun comedy movie, *Legally Blond*, is a serious critique of value. Of self-value, the value of relationships, and the value of moving on. For those that haven't seen the movie, it follows the story of Elle Woods, a fashion major whose boyfriend breaks up with her because it is time to be serious. In response to that she enrolls in Harvard Law School in order to win him back. Elle, an obviously attractive young lady, is often seriously underestimated in the entire film. People treat her as a "dumb blond" repeatedly. It assumed she got into Harvard on her looks rather than the fact that she tested well and worked hard to get there. In the second half of the film when she earns an internship at a prestigious law firm they try and get her to break the confidence of the client in order to serve her own ends, yet she does not.

Repeatedly throughout the movie Elle acts with integrity and focus. However, she does not see her value through the whole movie. Starting the film, she sees her value as the relationship she has with Warner (her boyfriend). This changes at a key part of the movie when at a party she mentions trying to do the internship and her ex says, "you can't do this." At this point Elle realizes that she will never be good enough for Warner, and she leaves the party muttering "I'll show you how valuable Elle Woods can be."

Most of us fail to see our value or to see that we are individuals worth investing in. Now hear me out. I am not saying that everyone is worth investing in by you. You cannot invest in everyone you meet. It is just not possible. However, you can invest in

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yourself. You need to see the value of improving yourself because no one else is obligated to. Initially when I started classes at Aberdeen it was because it interested me, and I will say it has been some of the best education I have ever received all because I am invested in learning it.

You can invest in yourself by reading something you have never read before. By taking a class out of your comfort zone. By listening to new music, I have recently taken up listening to more rap because many of my students listen to it. I do not know if I like it, but it is educating me. You can also try a new craft or learn a new way to do something you have always done.

Now everything I have talked about is about improving yourself only from your perspective and this is the advice we receive in Proverbs, hence the reason for them as the scripture reading. But you need to know that God is invested in you as well. God is and always has been invested in you. You are a unique creation of God. The only way you are going to know what God is trying to do in your life is to listen to God. Pay attention to creation around you, watch people, and see where God is at work.

You are a creation of value. Remember that you are truly valuable to God. Amen.

Lord's Prayer/Pastoral Prayer

Song

Benediction

Song

Goodbye