APRIL SERMON SERIES

LESSON ONE:
GOD'S VALUE SYSTEM

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO GOD

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GOD'S VALUE SYSTEM

“God’s ultimate goal for your life is character development, not comfort.”

Animals were designed to live by instinct; humans were designed to live with values.

Values act as the "operating system" that drives daily thoughts, decisions, and behaviors.

A value system is a set of principles that guide and drive our behavior.

Scripture Lesson:
Mark 12:38-44

And in His teaching, He [Jesus] said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers.

They will receive the greater condemnation.” And He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And He called his disciples to Him and said to them,

“Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Three Life Principles Regarding God's Value System:

1. What God Notices is Often Overlooked by Others.

God is "not impressed by numbers" but is "moved by devotion" and the hidden surrenders that the world might find insignificant.

2. God Sees Beyond the Surface.

God "sees not as man sees," but looks directly at the heart.
I Samuel 16:7

Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.
Psalm 44:21

I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct according to what their deeds deserve.
Jeremiah 17:10

You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.”
Luke 16:15

3. God Values and Uses the “Small Stuff.”

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.
Zechariah 4:10

“A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a great thing.”
Hudson Taylor

4. Value is Determined by the Price Someone is Willing to Pay.

"Price is what you pay. Value is what you get."
Warren Buffett

So do not fear; you are more valuable than a great number of sparrows.
Matthew 10:31

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8

God paid a high price for you, so don’t be enslaved by the world.
I Corinthians 7:23

Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
I Peter 1:18-19

God declares human souls to be of ultimate, priceless value.