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# *Incorporating Godly Values*

## **Mark 8:36-37**

*36''For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? NAS*

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The following is said to be a true story that comes from the sinking of the Titanic.

A frightened woman found her place in a lifeboat that was about to be lowered into the freezing North Atlantic. She suddenly thought of something she needed so she asked permission to return to her stateroom before they cast off. She was granted three minutes or they would leave without her.

She ran across the deck that was already slanted at a dangerous angle. She raced through the gambling room with all the money that had rolled to one side, ankle deep. She came to her stateroom and quickly pushed aside her diamond rings and expensive bracelets as she reached to the shelf above her bed and grabbed three small oranges. Quickly she found her way back to the lifeboat and got in.

The incredible thing about this story is that 30 minutes earlier she would not have chosen a *crate* of oranges over the smallest diamond. But death had boarded the Titanic. Instantly, priceless things became worthless and worthless things priceless. Oranges became more valuable than diamonds.

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## **The Concept of Value**

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1. What is it that gives something value?

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Usefulness  
Abundance/scarcity  
Popularity  
Similarity to other thing of value  
Durability (Mercedes vs. Yugo)  
Circumstances (Usefulness at the moment)

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2. What is the difference between the price of something and its value? Are price and value the same or different? What determines price? What determines value?

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Value is our perception of worth. Price is what we wish to charge in exchange or ultimately, what people are willing to pay. (Cabbage patch dolls, Beanie Babies, Harley Davidson Motorcycles)

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3. What do the following phrases mean?

- Family values
- Value system
- Intrinsic value
- "Values clarification"

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Family values - is a political buzzword that alludes to a former time when home and family were valued above more selfish pursuits. It is used by politicians to appeal to those who still value these issues. Many find it hard to define though, in our societal atmosphere of increasing relativism.

Value system - A system of morality (or lack of it) that emanates from a root belief or basic presuppositions.

Intrinsic Value - Worth that originates from within an object or thing of value.

"Values clarification" - an attempt by our public education system to introduce a system of values not dependent upon any belief in a higher being, power, or set of principles above or beyond man.

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## Values in the Bible

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4. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10.

Jesus is the founder of our faith. How is His value described here vs. how the world valued Him? (v. 4-8)

What statement is made of our value as Christians (v. 9-10)

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Christ's value to God: A choice, living stone, precious in the sight of God. The very corner stone.  
Christ's value to the world: Rejected by the builders. A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.  
Our value as Christians: Chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, once not a people - now the people of God, once without mercy, now having received mercy from God.

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5. Read 1 Peter 4:4-5. Tell how the clash in values between the world and the Christian shows up in a contrasting behavior.

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The Christian's behavior is so *different* from the non-Christian that they are surprised when we don't join them in those things God says will condemn us (things they value highly).

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6. Read Philippians 3:4-8. How did Paul compare the things that were valuable to him in his life before Christ vs. his life as a Christian? How much do we value the things that Paul turned his back on compared to knowing Christ?

## What We Are to Value

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7. Matthew 13:45-46. How highly should a Christian value the Kingdom? What is the Kingdom? Seeing the effort and expense this pearl seeker went to, how does our effort toward the kingdom compare?

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8. Read Matthew 6:31-34. What is to occupy first place in our value system, above even concern for the necessities of life?

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There is nothing wrong with concern for these things. It's just that there is a number one concern that must come before them. Yet how many times do we see decisions made where we move our family away from a good church in order to make a better salary without even considering whether it is right or not. In my opinion, such a thoughtless act is a strong indicator that we still are operating under the world's value system!

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## Adjusting Our Values

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**9.** Obviously worldly values are very different than kingdom values. When we come to Christ there must be a huge "values adjustment." This goes beyond just our actions all the way to the way we view things and the basic presuppositions we use in making decisions. It cannot be done in a day or with a single decision. It is a process. How can we make such drastic changes in even the way we think? See Ephesians 4:17-24.

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**10.** Read Matthew 6:19-24. In the midst of this comparison of loving money (and the things it can buy) vs. loving the service of God, Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (v. 21) How might this verse give us a clue for changing the things that we love?

What will happen if we try to love both God and money equally? (v. 24)

What will a cloudy or foggy view of this issue do to our lives? (v. 22-23)

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**11.** Read Colossians 3:1-4. What two steps does Paul give here to aid in our transformation?

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-Keep seeking the things that are above.

-Set your mind on the things that are above.

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