

# What Is a Soul Worth?

Mark 8:34-38 (KJV)

- Genesis 2:7 says, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”
- The Bible doesn’t teach that man “has” a soul; it teaches that man *is* a soul.
- This is a hard concept, but it is the biblical view of man. We have been greatly influenced by Greek thought.
- The Hebrews viewed man as in terms of “wholeness.”
- Man is a “*living soul*.”
- In Acts 2, when Peter preached at Pentecost, the Bible reports that “*three thousand souls were saved*.”
- “souls” here refers to people – 3,000 - to you – to self - to personhood.
- When we talk about the soul’s worth, we are referring to the value of a person
- Today we ask “how valuable is a person”? How valuable are YOU?
- I want to direct your attention to three things as we consider this passage of scripture this morning

## I. The Worth of a Soul

### 1. What makes anything have value?

#### a. Its Maker

- 1) A painting by Picasso or van Gogh
- 2) Antique Road Show / Storage Wars
- 3) Gen 2:7 – “*The Lord God formed a man of the dust of the ground*”
- 4) God made you - Eph 2:10 says - “*For we are his workmanship*”
- 5) Word for workmanship is *poiema* – the word for poem – we are His *poem*, His *masterpiece*, His *work of art*
- 6) We are valuable because we are made by God

#### b. Its Potential

- 1) Generally, a person buys something based on its potential for use
- 2) A person will buy something because they see in that thing the possibilities
- 3) It is said that when Michelangelo looked at a block of marble he saw it not only for what it was, but for what it could become
- 4) God sees not just what we are, but what we can become
- 5) We can be like Jesus!

#### c. Its Durability

- 1) I bought my granddaughter a Kindle Fire HD for Christmas – she’s 7 yrs old
- 2) I bought an “extended warranty” from SquareTrade – she can drop it 3 times and have it replaced
- 3) Value is determined by durability – we want to make sure they get

their investment out of a product over the long haul

- 4) You can buy things cheap, but if they don’t last long it might not be a bargain
  - 5) The soul was built to last
  - 6) Not a three year warranty – but an eternal one!
  - 7) Eternity! How long is that?
  - 8) You will live – exist - somewhere for all eternity
  - 9) There are only two options
  - 10) The soul is durable
- d. Its Rarity
- 1) Value is based on how many there are like it?
  - 2) For example, autographs or stamps or coins or posters
  - 3) How rare is your soul?
  - 4) Well you say, there are other souls, so mine must not be rare
  - 5) But you see, you are wrong - you are one of kind
  - 6) There is only one you
  - 7) God doesn’t make duplicates
  - 8) He only makes originals
  - 9) The Psalmist said “*I am fearfully and wonderfully made*”
  - 10) You are rare – one of a kind - and valuable

#### e. The crowning proof of the worth of anything is what someone will pay for it

- 1) How valuable is your soul?
- 2) I Peter 1:18-19

*For as much as ye know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without spot and without blemish.*

- 3) How much is your soul worth?
- 4) Go to Calvary – Golgotha – the place of the skull – see the heartbeat of God!
- 5) That’s the price He paid for you - not corruptible things such as silver and gold – but the blood of Jesus –
- 6) How much are YOU worth? (Rom 5:8 - KJV)

## II. The Waste of a Soul

1. Jesus said, “*What should it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?*”
  - 1) We are all concerned about profit and loss
    - a. That’s what Jesus Christ is talking about, but not in the worldly sense
    - b. He is talking about those who trade their eternal soul by living for this world and turning their back on Jesus
  - 2) Many people think that the answer to all of life’s problems is to be found in the world’s goods
    - a. But what happens when you own everything you ever wanted?

- b. Or is it possible to have it all?
  - c. Several have tried – Alexander the Great – Napoleon – Hitler – Judas
  - d. What really amazes me is not that people will sell Christ for the whole world - but that they will sell Him for so much less
  - e. Judas only asked for thirty pieces of silver
  - f. What's the going price? Fame – fortune – drugs – alcohol – sex – pleasure – so-called “freedom” –
- 3) Nobody ever gained the whole world - and what people do gain, they can't keep
- a. King Tut was buried with great riches – but he didn't take them with him –
  - b. George Strait – “I've never seen a hearse with a luggage rack”
  - c. No matter how much of the world's goods you gain, you won't be satisfied
  - d. God made you for Himself - Your soul was made for Him and you will never be satisfied until you find your joy in Him
  - e. That's why the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 5:10 – *“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income”*
  - f. What a waste!
  - g. The human soul created by God – of immeasurable worth – for all eternity
  - h. *“What shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world – and lose his own soul”?*

### III. The Welfare of the Soul

1. In light of all this – the worth of the soul and the waste of the soul – what did Jesus say?
2. See vs 34-38
3. These verses speak of conviction, conversion and confession
  - a. (vs. 34) Conviction - Come to the place where you are sincerely sorry for your sin and turn from self to Jesus - come to Jesus – that's conviction
  - b. (vs. 35) Conversion – “those who lose their life for Christ's sake shall save it” – *it's not about giving up everything; it's about gaining everything that really matters*
  - c. (vs 38) Confession - Don't be ashamed of Jesus - openly and publicly say Yes, yes, I believe in Him - Yes, I receive him

## Conclusion:

1. What is a soul worth?
2. What is your soul worth?
3. Don't neglect the most important thing in your life
4. Conviction, Conversion, Confession