

The Soul Felt Its Worth

Part 2: What's a Life Worth?

Colossians 1:15-22

Xmas is proof that we have infinite worth to God...

And Jesus said that he came to give us full/abundant lives.

But you know what type of life we usually settle for... a la croix life.

Like it's good-ish. We know what this fruit is supposed to taste/smell like but we settle for a little wisp of it.

Stay with me here...

We have infinite worth but often settle for painfully bland lives.

We want life to be full/satisfying but everything we try seems to only give us a hint of what we are actually wanting...

- Try to find satisfaction from careers... kinda tastes like life but still something missing
- Or what that money buys... still missing
- Enjoy relationships mostly... still missing
- List could go on
- After a while we usually just accept it and keep going through the motions in a watered-down version of life.

And in what might seem an unrelated note but is actually completely tied in... **we do the same thing with our relationship with God.**

It's nice to know he's there, but there's got to be more to it... more to why he came to earth on that O Holy Night.

But usually we either settle for something more like a confusing mystical force, an unknowable impersonal universe, or a great sky-daddy who set things spinning and is now on a really long business trip and only pays attention when we beg enough.

But what we saw in the last episode is that's not the case... we have infinite worth to God b/c he created us to bear his image and then he proved our worth by coming as a baby and living, dying, and rising again for us.

So why do we settle for a bland life and really a bland relationship with God?

B/c we've forgotten something... something that the greatest xmas carol of all time tries to remind us every year... You can disagree, it's ok to be wrong.

Adolphe Adam...

Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

You are worth too much to simply live a la croix life. You are worth too much to simply experience a la croix relationship with God.

And deep inside there's a spring of excitement and expectation that bubbles up every year about this time, because-

The real life we want isn't out of reach... A real relationship with God isn't just some empty religious promise...

The solution to both is the same thing...

We find the life we were made for when we experience the relationship we were made for.

GOD: Paul- **Colossians. 1:15-20**

That's who Jesus is... Eye-witnesses tell us he wasn't just some teacher. He was the fullness of God in human flesh.

God in a body. The incarnation. The point of xmas.

"Ok but if that's true wouldn't there be proof? Wouldn't it be like the most famous thing in the world....."

God came and loved people... individual people. Took time to know them, be involved in their lives, serve them, teach them, die for them and come back to life again... for them.

See **Xmas shows us that God is a personal God who personally loves each person.**

He wants us to experience, enjoy all of him... for us to personally know and experience him and know that he personally knows us.

Think- What type of life would that lead to?

Hard to waste a life, hard to settle for a fleeting whiff of a smell of real life when you are convinced that the God who created everything personally knows you and has a plan/mission for you. To be the personal image of his love, character, creativity to the world.

To **know** he is with you and that he's actually interacting with you on a daily basis, that he loves hanging out with you and your God and friend.

So why do we settle...?

V. 21

Enemies of God?

We've forgotten who we were created to be images of... We try to throw off his image, we rebel against the law of love and try to create and display our own image.

There is something in us that makes us God's enemies... not that he is against us... but we choose to be against him...

Basically we choose SELF over God.

Biblical writers call it Sin... We ARE sinners.

See it's not just the bad things we do that make us sinners... we do hurtful things because we ARE sinners.

Separated by = evidenced/shown by... b/c we have chosen SELF, chosen to go our own way, to be separated from God... evil deeds/thoughts are the result...

Not only separates us from God, it separates every relationship we have...

Ignore image of God in others... "What I want is more important than YOU" use them or remove them to get what we want... breaks relationships, friendships, marriages, families, communities, even nations apart.

Ignore the image of God in ourselves... "What I want right now is more important than what is best for me." Mad at yourself, disappointed in yourself, can't face yourself. Regrets.

And we begin to think that since we have hurt others and are enemies to God, he chooses to be an enemy to us... we aren't worth his love and the life he offers.

Sin makes us forget our true worth to God.

It's not who we want to be... but we can't seem to break the cycle... (Paul in Romans/show notes)

And the result... weary souls in sin and error pining. Longing for Pining for relief and healing. Pining to be who we were created to be... pining for the relationship that shows us who we really are...

But God loves us [you and me personally] too much... We are worth too much to him to simply leave us in this miserable state...

Col. 1:22 YET NOW

Jesus came to restore the relationships sin has broken.

God become human. Born 2000 yrs ago to a poor teenage girl... lived among us... giving himself to show his love in every interaction he had.

Showed us what true relationship can be... and then showed us what true love is by dying for us... defeating sin and death for us... rising again to give us new true life now and forever.

Removed the separation... our sin... conquered it for us... AND NOW sin no longer has power over us... NOW we are free to be his imager we were always designed to be.

NOW can be Holy and blameless... bear the image we were created to bear

We find our true selves in a true relationship with God.

When we find this relationship and embrace it... we experience a new and glorious morn...

A new life... new world... real life/world... We are worth so much to God that he wasn't satisfied just to give us a taste of this life/relationship. A bland version of life.

The life you were created for begins to be experienced.

We don't have to settle for a little taste of true life... b/c we don't have to settle for a little taste of true relationship with God.

All of us can experience this daily... Not a one time experience but daily...

Question: Jesus something that is part of your life... or is he your life?

Ridiculous how easy to forget how much this relationship is worth- Most people spend lives thinking/focusing on their jobs/finances/family/relationships and maybe have some Jesus sprinkled on top for a but of flavor... not too much can't handle the heat.

But if you want you life to be true life.. More than a la croix life ... Focus on Jesus and everything else will follow. Not always easier life.. But a better life, a full life... true life... a new and glorious morn- life

Interested?

YOU:

Read: John 10:10-18 Pay attention to the relationship described and offered by Jesus.

Ready to experience and accept?... Tell him. Maybe for first time... maybe not...

Pray: "I don't want just a taste... "I'm done trying to build/project/protect MY image... I'm done with a la croix relationship. I want the full relationship you offer and the full life that flows from it.

It's choosing to turn away from self (everything you do to build, project/protect yourself) and turning to Trusting him instead.

- Dangerous. It was for me.

- But result? A soul that rejoices.

Connect: Groups/Alliances... get a taste on Dec 19th. Been seeing from afar.. invite/challenge you to come and see.

WE:

We are worth so much to God that he came to give us lives that are worth so much more than we can imagine.

This xmas experience that true thrill of hope by accepting your true worth and enjoying the relationship God came to give us.

It's the relationship that changes every relationship, the relationship that changes every interaction.

A full and personal relationship with a personal Jesus creates a full life for every person.

Questions

1. How have you experienced flavors of God this week?
2. Sticking with the La Croix/Flavor theme from this message... how would you describe your current life and even relationship with Jesus?
3. Read John 10:10-18. What's something that stands out to you about your relationship to Jesus?
4. How can your group pray with you through this week of excitement, exhaustion, and/or anticipation of Christmas?

Summary: Christmas reminds us that life can be more. There is more than the usual routines we find ourselves mindlessly repeating. In fact, Christmas actually points the way to experiencing the life we long for... the life Jesus offers to everyone.

Episode Breakdown:

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01:12 We welcome your Questions

03:40 That LaCroix life

05:07 Something's missing

08:20 The real life we want


14:20 Are you mad at yourself?

15:25 Possible relief

19:05 Dangerous idea here...

23:00 Recap & for you for later

26:20 Questions and the bonuses

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SHOW NOTES:

▶ Notes & Questions: https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-12-12_cg.pdf

▶ Transcript: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-12-12.pdf>

▶ Ask your “So, what about...?” Questions!

<https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/ask> or watch last year’s series here:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3wRLN-XrhoEFqmjUhGbwTkWpQiGu8TB4>

▶ Upcoming #SalemOregon Gatherings

Christmas Together Gathering! December 19, 2021, 4:30pm <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/xmas>

▶ #forSalem DECEMBER Opportunity: Christmas FOR Everyone!

Gifts for Church @ The Park, Simonka Place, CASA, neighbors, friends and strangers. Pick one or do a mix! Find out more at: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/xmas/#xmas>

▶ Suggested Bible Readings:

Romans 7:19-25, Colossians 1:15-22, John 10:10-18

▶ Music we listened to making this episode:

Foo Fighters- Walk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PkcfQtibmU&t=12s>

Josh Garrels- O Holy Night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05o0BUnc1kg>

2Cellos- Game of Thrones: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcFpvoIRN3w>

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