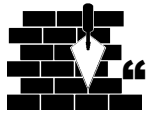


THE APPRENTICE - “Valuing What God Values”



“Building Blocks”

1. **(Q1a)** These passage collectively teach something very profound. Not only is god’s “value system” vastly different from ours (i.e. “upside down”), but also it appears that He has set this up in a way that we will not *naturally* pursue. That means (by implication) that something must happen to people first in order for them to “see” as He sees, and value what He values, and *not* value what He hates. Essentially, we are talking about a “values audit” being done on what’s important to us, not merely adding some new values to existing ones.
2. **(Q1b)** The Hebrew word for “boast” in Jeremiah 9 basically means to “praise oneself.” This should be understood as actually “glorifying” oneself (using our definition of “glorify” from the previous chapter); pointing others towards oneself instead of towards God. This makes “boasting” the *opposite* of glorifying God. This is perhaps what is in the back of Paul’s mind when he penned Galatians 1:10. Jesus may have been addressing this also in John 5:44.
3. **(Q1c)** God addresses *both* of the above ideas from Q1b above—the accumulation of things and value placed upon them, as well as the inherent *hostility* of this value system to God’s. The Greek word translated “detestable” (NIV) or “abomination” (ESV) only appears 6x in the New Testament. The other 5 are in reference to the nature of evil in the last days (cf. Matt. 24:15; Mk 13:14; Rev 17:4,5; 21:27).
4. **(Q3)** In this passage, Paul’s statement, “*I have no one else like him...*” is the translation of the Greek word, *isopsuche* which means “same soul.” Here we discover one the key reasons Paul was so attached to Timothy—they were “kindred spirits” on what mattered most in life: people!
5. **(Q4-Jn)** If, as most assume, in this passage Jesus is “reinstating” Peter to a place of leadership after his triple denial, then the passage carries deep importance. Jesus here links care and responsible nurture of those He considers His own, with love for Him. In fact, Jesus gives Peter that challenge of “proving” that he loves Him by demonstrating care for those Jesus calls His “sheep.”



“Stumbling Stones”

1. **(Q3c)** We must be careful not to think we must “make” people more important to us. This passage is a strong reminder that people should be our prime tangible value, not simply something we have added to our list. This passage should also be viewed and understood in contrast to the things we would naturally be tempted to accumulate and boast about.
2. **(Q7-Jms)** We must guard ourselves from so stressing what we think the second half of this verse is saying, that we neglect the first half! The order of these statements is very important. Obedience to the first statement creates the proper caution expressed in the second statement. The “stains” that threaten us are to be encountered in the context of performing “true religion.” This verse is *not* so much a prohibition against becoming “stained,” as it is a warning to those engaged in ministry to “the least of these.”



“Going Deeper”

1. **(Q4)** Use your answers for this question to also isolate what Jesus *didn’t value* (implied).
2. **(Q4)** Is it possible to value people and not serve people? Explain.

Do you “rank” Christians in your own mind, based on success or Christ-likeness? (Be honest!)

3. **(Q5-Phil 2)** Is Paul talking about our choices here, or our attitude? Explain.
4. **(Q5-Phil 4)** What is Paul’s point here? What is he saying by using the word “crown” to describe these people?
5. **(Q6-Col)** What is our main “cost” if we obey this verse?
6. **(Q7-Heb)** What is this passage actually saying about “helping” other Christians? What is really going on, in reality?

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