

## God Time Day 1: Invaluable Means...



What does it mean for something to be “invaluable” to us? The word loses something in our consumer-driven culture. We may say that our cell phones are invaluable, yet we replace them regularly. But something truly invaluable is irreplaceable, indispensable, and priceless.



Consider Luke 15:4-6.

*<sup>4</sup>What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, <sup>6</sup>and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!’*

From an economic perspective, this parable from Jesus does not seem to make sense. A businessperson might say that the wise decision would be to stay and protect the ninety-nine sheep (the larger value/investment) and to simply write off the one sheep as an acceptable loss. But, to God, no one is written off as an acceptable loss.

While we can never be good enough to earn God’s love, it is a lie that we are too far gone to receive His love or that we can never know enough to share His truth. Many of us struggle with these lies, believing that we are too broken to be saved, or that a lack of a theology degree makes us unfit to lead. Our value is not based on worth according to human standards, but rather on our importance and value to God. According to Him, we are all invaluable, worthy of His risking everything by leaving behind the ninety-nine to save us. After all, isn’t that why Jesus came to live among us and to die upon the cross?



Look up Psalm 139:14. Rewrite the verse in your own words and make it personal.

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## God Time Day 2: What Is the Body of Christ?



Read 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NLT).

*<sup>12</sup>The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.*

Being a part of a group (*the body*) is important. We were created in the image of God, and that image is designed to be in community. Forming a community (a body) with other Believers is an essential part of who we are.



List important communities/groups you are a member of:

- An employee of \_\_\_\_\_
- A fan of \_\_\_\_\_
- A citizen of \_\_\_\_\_
- A member of the family \_\_\_\_\_
- A member of the Body of Christ (i.e., the Church).



Which ones occupy most of your energy and attention?

Which one should occupy most of your energy and attention?

## God Time Day 3: Every Part of the Body Matters



Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-17.

*<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body is not one part but many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, “Because I’m not a hand, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I’m not an eye, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?*



Have you ever broken your toe? Most people would initially consider a toe as a relatively insignificant body part – that is until you break one. You learn quickly just how much you use your toe, and just how difficult and painful it is when it’s not working how it’s supposed to.



Take some time to reflect on seemingly insignificant things you do that God considers essential to the Kingdom.

## God Time Day 4: Your Past Prepares You



Everyone has a past. For many people, that past comes with feelings of shame and fear, so much so that we try to hide or bury that past. Our past often includes brokenness, sins, and mistakes, things that we feel disqualify us from being used by God. Throughout Jesus' ministry, he touched many lives and forgave countless sins. Did Jesus instruct those people to change their names and identities to hide their past (like a spiritual witness protection program)?



Read John 4:28-29.

<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"

Underline the phrase "everything I ever did."

Let's focus on the story of the Samaritan Woman. After Jesus spoke with her for a time, she went back into the village to tell everyone else what Jesus had told her. She did not try to hide her past, but rather her story was powerful because of her past. The people knew her history, and perhaps they could see the change that Jesus had already made in her life.

Jesus forgives our sin and heals our brokenness. This doesn't mean that our scars magically disappear, but rather that our past no longer has power over us. This allows us to use our history, our experiences, and our scars to minister to others in unique and powerful ways. For example:

- Have you experienced abuse in your life? Can you use that to help others who have been abused find healing?
- Has your life been touched by divorce? Can you use that to guide someone else through a similar storm?



What is one significant pain or scar from your past?

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Pray for God to show you how to use that experience to help someone suffering from a similar experience.

## God Time Day 5: What's Your Part? (Your Worship Matters)



What does it mean to "worship God?" For example, we gather on Sundays to "worship God," and for some of us, this is as far as we get. We sing songs and listen to a sermon, and this is our only worship.



Read Romans 12:1-2.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.



Circle the words "living sacrifice."

Underline the words "true worship."

Worship is an ACT OF DEVOTION dedicated to God, not a feeling. When we read these verses in Romans, it becomes apparent that our "true worship" is not something we do just on Sunday mornings, but rather how we live our lives seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Giving our time to gather with others and draw closer to God is an act of worship. Leading our families in Bible study to help our children develop their relationships with God is an act of worship. Obeying God in serving His people is an act of worship. (For example, baking a pie to give to a hurting friend, just to let them know we care, can be an act of worship. Taking ten minutes to listen to someone's story can be an act of worship.)

God has gifted every person to worship Him uniquely and beautifully, all of us coming together into a wonderful symphony of living worship. Ask yourself: "WHAT IS MY PART?"



Write down two things you are passionate about:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



How is God calling you to worship through each of these?

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