



Seeing Your Value through Christ's Eyes

What does it mean?

1. What is the definition of...?

Value: 1. A fair return or equivalent in goods, services, or money for something exchanged
2. The monetary worth of something 3. Relative worth, utility, or importance

Worth: 1. Monetary value 2. The value of something measured by its qualities or by the esteem in which it is held 3. Moral or personal value

2. In what ways do we assess value?

§ Intrinsic Value:

§ Subjective Value:

§ Economic Value:

Women During Jesus' Time

3. What do we know about how women during Jesus' time were treated? And how they functioned in society?

At the Feet of Ordinary Women; Finding Yourself in Titus 2:4-5

By Angie Conrad, Janet Cox, Tammy Eagan, Sandy Kershaw, and Pam Miller
p. 41 The Role of Women in Jesus' Time

New Testament Scholars provide us with a sketch of how women were often viewed and treated. Women were secluded from public life as much as possible. With the exception of their wedding day, it was shameful for them to be seen publicly with their faces uncovered. Touching or speaking to a woman in public was taboo for a devout Jewish man, especially if he was a religious leader. Sometimes, even in the home, men and women were strictly segregated. It was reported that in very stringent homes, it was possible for a boy to grow up without seeing his mother's face.

A first-century Jewish woman was considered to have the same status as a slave or a piece of property owned first by her father, then by her husband. A father could sell his daughter into slavery until she was twelve years old. After that, he could give her in marriage

to the man of his choosing, as long as the man could meet the dowry price the father demanded. The woman typically had no voice in these decisions.

There were, of course, exceptions to the cultural norms, and some women were given greater status in the family. However, the conditions described above were not unusual.

Sketches of Jewish Social Life

by Alfred Edersheim

In order accurately to understand the position of woman in Israel, it is only necessary carefully to peruse the New Testament. The picture of social life there presented gives a full view of the place which she held in private and in public life. Here we do not find that separation, so common among Orientals at all times, but a woman mingles freely with others both at home and abroad. So far from suffering under social inferiority, she takes influential and often leading part in all movements, especially those of a religious character. (p.129)

Of course, against all this may be set the permission of polygamy, which undoubtedly was in force at the time of our Lord, and the ease with which divorce might be obtained. (p.132)

Proverbs 31:10-31:

Deborah (Judges 4):

Jezebel (1 Kings 16-21):

Mary & Martha :

Mary – Jesus' Mother:

The Women at the Tomb:

Others:

How was Jesus Different?

What do we learn from each encounter Jesus has with various women in the Bible?

- ☞ How is each woman feeling? What are her feelings of self-worth?
- ☞ How does Jesus help them? How does Jesus' approach differ from the others in their society?
- ☞ What changes in their lives because of their encounter with Jesus?
- ☞ What did Jesus value about them? What does His "approach" & help to them show?

4. Matthew 9:18-26 / Mark 5:21-43 – The Woman with Bleeding

Read & Assess:

How does Jesus value her? Or show the woman her own value?

- ❖ How did/do many societies treat daughters? How did Jesus show God’s love for not just sons but daughters?
- ❖ How do you think the woman who was subject to bleeding felt after 12 long years of suffering? How do you think her family treated her during this time?

In the book of Mark, which also tells about this woman it says, “She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.”

- ❖ Why do you think the woman didn’t ask Jesus, but just touched him?
- ❖ How did Jesus show God’s love to this woman? What did he call her? What does that mean?

5. John 8:1-11 – The Adulterous Woman

Read & Assess:

How does Jesus value her? Or show the woman her own value?

- ❖ Did the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law care about this woman? Did they care that she did something wrong?
- ❖ Were the Teachers of the Law being fair? Doesn’t it take two to commit adultery—where was the guy?
- ❖ The Pharisees thought they were righteous people who were good enough for God. How did Jesus show them they were wrong?
- ❖ How did Jesus show God’s love and forgiveness to this woman?

6. John 4:4-15 - Jesus talks with a Samaritan Women

Read & Assess:

How does Jesus value her? Or show the woman her own value?

- ❖ Why do you suppose the woman deflected the conversation away from her marital status and toward a theological issue?

- ❖ Why did Jesus “change the subject?”

7. John 2:1-11 - Jesus and his mother at the Wedding

Read & Assess:

How does Jesus value her? Or show the woman her own value?

- ❖ What can you surmise about the relationship between Son and mother in this scene?

- ❖ What transition is Jesus making when He calls her “dear woman” rather than “mother” in John 2:4?

Knowing Our Worth

8. What does Jesus value in us?

Intrinsically? Subjectively?

What are we worth?

9. Knowing we are valued...

How does it change us?

How will it change how we behave/live our lives?

How will it change the way we treat/value others?

Does it change how we look at the members/friends in our congregations?

10. How can we show other women their "Value in Christ?"