

Sun., Nov. 14 - Stewardship 2

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 31:3 The Lord proclaims, "I have loved you with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself."

Reading of Scripture: Psalm 139:13-18

Message: "Parable of the \$20 Bill"

Scripture: Isaiah 46:3-4

Blurb: On the back of the \$20 bill (like all U.S. bills and coins) is our National Motto: "In God we trust." Could our money perhaps remind us of our faith? Could something like a \$20 bill serve as a parable to teach us about God's love? Come this Sunday for a chance to receive a \$20 bill, but also to receive a guaranteed affirmation of God's amazing love for you!

Prep: Sing *Jesus Loves Me* as closing song, with additional verses.

[Recorded Worship Beginning]

WELCOME -Pastor Andrew

MEMORY VERSE: -Pastor Andrew

The Lord proclaims, "I have loved you with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself." -Jeremiah 31:3

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify

Blessed Be Your Name

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

[Live Worship Beginning]

GATHERING SONG: *Your Love Defends Me* -Sanctify

WELCOME -Pastor David

MEMORY VERSE: -Pastor David

The Lord proclaims, "I have loved you with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself." -Jeremiah 31:3

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify

New Doxology

Goodness of God

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

[Both Recorded & Live Worship]

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:13-18 -Pastor Cassi

In Psalm 139, King David declares that God knows him inside and out. Listen for how David describes just how this makes him feel. Psalm 139:13-18,

13 You are the one who created my innermost parts;

you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.

14 I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.

Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

15 My bones weren't hidden from you

when I was being put together in a secret place,

when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my embryo,

and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me,

before any one of them had yet happened.

17 God, your plans are incomprehensible to me!

Their total number is countless!

18 If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand!

If I came to the very end—I'd still be with you.

GROW MOMENTS:

Spiritual Health Assessment Tool video -Cassi

Stewardship 2 -Teresa Gruber

PRAYERS: "In God We Trust" -Pastor David

Praying our Nation's Motto for trust in God

MESSAGE: Parables of Faith: The Parable of the \$20 Bill

PP#1: Parables of Faith: The Parable of the \$20 Bill

"The mountains may shift, and the hills may be shaken, but my faithful love won't shift from you, and my covenant of peace won't be shaken, says the Lord, the one who pities you." - Isaiah 54:10

I. Introduction:

A. Parables of Faith. The Parable of the \$20 Bill.

-Isaiah 54:10 "The mountains may shift, and the hills may be shaken, but my faithful love won't shift from you, and my covenant of peace won't be shaken, says the Lord, the one who pities you."

PP#2: *Image of a crumpled \$20 bill*

B. Ask for two volunteers to come up and help. Stand at outer sides of the stage.

C. Show them 2 new \$20 bills.

-Talk about how nice and new it is.

-What's its value? \$20!

-Ask if they want it.

- D. Take one and crumple it up.
- Stomp on it
 - Smash it
 - Rub dirt on it
 - Tear it
- E. Ask if they still want the new \$20 bill.
- Ask if they want the crumpled \$20 bill.
 - Why would they still want it?
 - Still spends the same! Still worth \$20!
 - The value stays the same no matter its condition or how it looks
- F. Give each person one of the \$20 bills: “Spend it in a way that would make God smile.”

PP#3: The Parable of the \$20 Bill

1. Our value comes from our Maker
“God saw all that He had made, and it was *very good*.” -Genesis 1:31 (emphasis added)

II. The crumpled \$20 bill is a parable for us!

A. Our value comes from our Maker

1. The truth of *value* is the same with us!
2. Our value comes from God, who makes us.
 - In the creation story, when God made creation, each day God looked at what He had made, and it says that each day, “And God saw that it was good.”
 - Then, on the 6th day, after making humans, it says, “God saw all that He had made, and it was *very good*.” (Genesis 1:31, emphasis added)
 - God made humans, and God made every one of us!
 - And we are made *good*, and made with basic, intrinsic value
 - Psalm 139:14 says, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made....”
 - We have intrinsic value because we are made in God’s image
 - We bear the image of our maker
 - Just like this \$20 bill bears the images of our country, and that is why it has value
 - It’s not a silver or gold certificate.
 - It is valuable because the issuer declares it has value, and will back it up!
 - It is valuable to the country of the United States, the issuer
 - You and I, we have value because God declares us valuable
 - It’s not because the dirt from what we are made has value
 - It’s because our God looks at us and declares, “You have value *to me*.”
 - A \$20 bill is never trash, even if it is found in a ditch.
 - It is always money, always has spending power, always has value
 - God doesn’t make trash, right?
3. So, the first part of the Parable of the \$20 Bill is that our value comes from our Maker

PP#4: The Parable of the \$20 Bill

1. Our value comes from our Maker
2. Our condition does not affect our value
“But now says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’” -Isaiah 43:1

B. Our condition does not affect our value

1. The crumpling and dirtying and stomping and ripping of the \$20 bill *does not* decrease it's value
2. Same with us

- God made people perfect, but we fell into sin
- We fell away from God's perfection He intended
- We are crumpled by selfishness, dirtied by sin, stomped on by evil, and ripped by others
- We cannot make ourselves perfect again
- We may find ourselves tossed aside, forgotten in a ditch, no longer admired
- Whatever your life's experiences, whatever you have gone through, whatever you have done, whatever has happened to you, whatever others have done to you, whatever you look like, whatever you may think of yourself, whatever you may fear is true about you, whatever you may harbor in your deepest, darkest secrets, whatever you have failed at, whatever purpose you may thought you had, whatever your perceived role may have been,
- It does not change your value
- It doesn't matter how crumpled or ripped or dirty you are, you retain your value!
- Why? Because your value comes from your issuer.

3. Our God has declared that He will redeem you for the value that He has placed on you

- Isaiah 43:1 "But now says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.'"
- Imagine God seeing you dirty and forgotten in a ditch. Imagine His face brighten as He reaches down to grab you.
- Imagine His pleasure as He uncrumples you, brushes you off, flattens you out.
- (That's called justification in the Bible.)
- Imagine His joy in having found you and reclaiming you!

PP#5: "Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you, I will give others in your place and others in exchange for your life." -Isaiah 43:4

"The mountains may shift, and the hills may be shaken, but my faithful love won't shift from you, and my covenant of peace won't be shaken, says the Lord, the one who pities you." -Isaiah 54:10

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you." -Isaiah 49:15

4. The Bible is full of declarations of God's love for us, even while unworthy

- God's people in the Old Testament did just about everything to offend God
- And while they were, in willful disobedience, all dirty and torn and crumpled, God says,
- Isaiah 43:4 "Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you, I will give others in your place and others in exchange for your life."
- Isaiah 54:10 "The mountains may shift, and the hills may be shaken, but my faithful love won't shift from you, and my covenant of peace won't be shaken, says the Lord, the one who pities you."
- Isaiah 49:15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you."

PP#6: “I have loved you with an everlasting love.” -Jeremiah 31:3

“Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are?”
-Matthew 6:25-34

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” -Matthew 10:29-31

-Jeremiah, in 31:3, declares God’s passion: “I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

-Jesus continues to describe God’s unfailing and unchanging love for His people:

-Matthew 6:25-34 “Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are?”

-Matthew 10:29-31, “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

5. So, be sure to hear this: our value comes from our Maker & our condition doesn’t affect our value

PP#7: The Parable of the \$20 Bill

1. Our value comes from our Maker
2. Our condition does not affect our value
3. Jesus redeems our value

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” -Romans 5:8

C. Jesus Redeems Our Value

1. God sees us dirty and sinful and still values us

-Values us enough to send Jesus to die in order to have us back again

-To redeem our value

-Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

-Jesus showed us God’s unimaginable love for us when He gave Himself on the cross to win us back

-It may be trite, but oh, so true, the question: “I asked Jesus ‘How much do you love me?’ And Jesus said, ‘This much.’ Then He stretched out His arms and died.”

PP#8: *Image of Samuel rejecting Eliab, subtitled*, “Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven’t selected him. God doesn’t look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart.” - 1 Samuel 16:7

2. Back in 1 Samuel 16

-God sends Samuel to go anoint the boy David to be the next king of Israel. Samuel tells Jesse that he is there to anoint the next king. So, Jesse sends for his oldest son, the tall, strong, handsome Eliab. And Samuel thinks to himself, “Yep, now here is king material!”

- But then God teaches Samuel how God sees people, verse 7, “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven’t selected him. God doesn’t look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart.”
- God doesn’t see our condition, God sees our intrinsic value, seeing the image—His image—we are made in

PP#9: The Parable of the \$20 Bill

1. Our value comes from our Maker
2. Our condition does not affect our value
3. Jesus redeems our value
4. Embrace your God-given value

D. Embrace your God-given value!

A. You have a tremendous value to God

- No matter what the world thinks of you, no matter what you think about yourself, no matter your past, no matter your story, no matter the condition you are in, or abilities or age
- When we grow weak/vulnerable, God says it is an opportunity to receive His strength

PP#10: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” -2 Corinthians 12:9

“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.” Proverbs 16:31

“Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am He, even when you turn gray I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” -Isaiah 46:3-4

-2 Cor. 12:9 “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

-When we grow old and grey, God says it is an honor and glory.

Proverbs 16:31 “Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.”

-God will help us in our weakness as we age and lose ability. He will continue to be our God.

-Isaiah 46:3-4 “Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am He, even when you turn gray I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.”

He will carry you and help you.

PP#11: The Parable of the \$20 Bill

E. You are like this \$20 bill. Your value is the same now as it has always been.

-God will help you now no matter your condition

-Part of being a Jesus follower is seeing yourself—and others—the way God does!

III. Conclusion: “Jesus Loves Me” with new verses

A. I want for us to go to that all-time favorite song, “Jesus Loves Me”

-We think it is only for kids

-Well, kids need to sing it!

-But so should all of us!

-Anna B. Warner wrote this song in 1859

-But others have added verses to it, too.

B. Let's stand and sing this together, singing some of the verses we may know by memory, but also with some other verses that declare our value no matter our condition.

C. Let's leave here today with "Jesus loves me" in our minds and hearts!

D. Let's sing!

CLOSING SONG: *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know* -Sanctify

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me He who died, heaven's gate to open wide.

He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in.

3. Jesus loves me! Loves me still, Tho' I'm very weak and ill;

That I might from sin be free: Bled and died upon the tree. *Chorus.*

4. Jesus loves me when I'm good, When I do the things I should,

Jesus loves me when I'm bad, Though it makes Him very sad.

5. Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow.

Though my sight is growing dim, Still He bids me trust in Him. *Chorus.*

6. When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song.

Telling me words ever new, "Have no fear, for I love you!"

7. When my work on earth is done, And life's victories have been won.

He will take me home above, Then I'll understand his love. *Chorus.*

OFFERING: -Pastor David

-Give of your monies to God's work through this church. You can give in person, mail it in, drop it off or, most conveniently, you can make an electronic transfer or a debit card payment on the church website or by using the "square" on the bulletin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David

Wednesday night: Meal and Groups

Next Sunday's message: Parable of the Turkey

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

The Lord proclaims, "I have loved you with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself." -Jeremiah 31:3

BENEDICTION -Pastor David