

Sunday 5/5/2024 – Does God Care About Me?

“DO I MATTER?” Or in other words, “DOES GOD CARE ABOUT ME?”

So before we get to this question, I want us to look at what causes us to even wonder if we matter or what causes us to believe that we don't matter.

Our ourselves.

So many cultural statements out there right now like...Follow your heart, do what makes you happy, just be yourself. What happens when “myself” is not enough? What happens when I believe lies about myself that are not true?

Following our heart can lead us to some dangerous places and just being ourselves can lead us to just making excuses for poor or hazardous habits and choices. If it were just up to us to give our lives meaning and purpose, I think we would be very dissatisfied.

Other distractions.

Goals, money, achievements...Those things are great to have, but they will also leave us feeling empty and not satisfy us. That is why you see how many well accomplished people or successful people when it comes to being rich or having an incredible career still wanting more or longing for more. While it is great to strive for greatness and doing well for yourself, those things ultimately leave us longing for more and never truly satisfying our meaning.

Others around us.

Others can make us feel so good, and they can also tear us apart and cause us to live with so many issues like shame, abandonment, insecurities. While it feels good to see others like us, comment on our pictures online, tell us great things about ourselves...We also know people can be cruel and harmful and if we let those words or thoughts dictate our lives it can leave us feeling insignificant and like we don't matter. So people will say just tune the haters out, but it's a lot easier said than done...Words and actions can hurt and can make us feel like we do not matter to others...

These things, while they are great to have in our lives, BUT can cause us to believe so many lies about ourselves and who we were created to be. They can cause us to look in the wrong direction for our significance. So then if our worth, value, and identity cannot be found in these things alone, where do we find where we matter and if we matter.

1 Corinthians 4:3-4 NLT

As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide.

The story that I think illustrates this the best is a story that Jesus told. He was talking about various things that were lost and then found. This parable is used to help all of us know just how much we matter to him.

Luke 15:3-7 New International Version

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Three things from this story...

God knows you

You Matter to God

God gave everything to prove to you that you matter to him.

This story teaches us, this is what God did for all of us. He came to seek and to save the lost. That should help us all remember why we matter and just how much God cares about us.

So then if we matter that much to God, how do we know that or continue to be reminded of that?

Go to him to know the truth.

We are bombarded by so many lies on a daily basis. Lies we hear from others, lies we tell ourselves, and ultimately we have an adversary/enemy that has been making people believe lies since the beginning of creation. That is why it is so important to combat the lies we hear with God's truth.

God gives us his word, God gives us his spirit, and God gives us each other as a church community to help us and to remind us of how much we matter to him.

Matthew 4:4 NIV

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Here is how the article we start with ends. It reminds us of the truth and how much we matter to God.

He sees you. Psalms 121:8

He made you. Ephesians 2:10

Gave his life for you. Romans 5:8

Loves you. 1 John 4:16

He is calling you by name. Isaiah 43:1

Formed you in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13

Laid out all of your days and recorded them in His book. Psalm 139:16

Created you for a purpose. Jeremiah 29:11

A reason. Romans 8:28

You are His. Isaiah 46:4

You Matter. Matthew 10:31

There is hope for you. Romans 15:13



You matter so much to God, more than you can ever imagine.

THIS IS WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE.