

“Do We Really Care? Luke 10:38-42

The title of this message is the title of a well-known song which asks the challenging question: “Do we really care?” I want to expand that basic question to ask: “Do we really care about the things in life that really matter? Do we really care about the values in life that really count – count for now and for eternity?”

Luke 10:38-42 tells about an interesting event in the life of Jesus. Jesus entered a certain village and was received as a special guest in the home of Martha and her sister Mary. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to His great teaching while Martha worried about serving the guests at the table. Martha came to Jesus and asked Him to get Mary to help her with the chores. And Jesus said to her: “Martha, Martha, you are careful and troubled about many LITTLE things. But ONE thing is needful: and Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken from her.”

Too often we are like Martha – giving our attention to the LITTLE things instead of paying attention to the BIG things. Many times we are guilty of majoring on minors. We get our values all mixed up. We care about the little things too much and do not care enough about values that really matter.

All of this gives rise to another important question: “What are some of the values that really count – really matter?”

1. Life matters. Life is a gift from God. God created us – made us in His own image. Genesis 2:7 says: “Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Life itself is a value that counts – and we should be concerned about life – the quality of life of every person God has made. We need to give attention to what I think of as the wholeness of life – physical, mental, spiritual, social. All these qualities are intertwined and related and contribute to the wholeness of life.

2. Our personal relationship with Almighty God who made us is a value that counts – for now and for eternity. John chapter 3, tells us about a Pharisee named Nicodemus showed great concern about this abiding value and Jesus told him that he “must be born again” – spiritual birth – in order to be in right relationship with God. Romans 3:23 declares “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” But Romans 6:23 proclaims that “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Thank God for the Good News message found in John 3:16 which says: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Where are we right now in our personal relationship with Almighty God who created us?

3. Personal spiritual growth is a value that counts.

Dr. David Dyer, one of my religion professors at Wake Forest University, told us: “Spiritually speaking many people are born again but never get out of the delivery room.” What he meant was that some people experience the new birth in Christ but do not grow as God intends toward Christ-likeness. Are we maturing in the faith through Bible study, worship, and service? Are we becoming more like Christ every day that we live? Are we growing up spiritually? To be sure, spiritual growth is a value that counts.

4. Divine judgment counts. It counts for eternity. In His teachings concerning judgment, Jesus Christ is very forceful and descriptive, especially in Matthew 25 verse 31 and following where He says:

When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, ‘Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:’ . . . Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, ‘Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

The hymn writer knew that divine judgment counts and was motivated to write:

Where will you spend eternity?
This question comes to you and me!
Tell me, what shall your answer be!
Where will you spend eternity?

And so, we return to the original question asked by the title of this message and we make it very personal. Do we really care? Do we really care about the values in life that really matter? Remember the command of Jesus Christ who said: “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

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