

What is your worth?

April 28, 2025

What comes to mind when someone talks to you about your worth? For most, they begin to add up their investments and capital. If you need a loan, you must know how much collateral you must put up in case you default on your payments. How much attainable cash is in your savings? Are your cars paid off? What is their worth? We wrestle with this often, depending on the type of work you do. Construction often demands upfront funds for supplies and then labor. What is your worth?

Matthew 20:28: “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” The word ransom is used thirteen times in the NKJV, and fifteen times in the NIV. There are six definitions from the Lexicon. Ransom in the NKJV, NT, is found twice in the gospels, here in Matthew and Mark 10:45, the next is in 1 Timothy 2:6. Here in the New Testament, an-til'yon, an-til'-oo-tron; from G473 and G3083; a redemption-price:—ransom.

Although we find this used so little in Scripture, the entirety of our Salvation relies on it. In his writings, “Sermons and Essays from the Works of B.B. Warfield,” he addresses ransom three hundred and forty-eight times. It surely had an impact on his sermons and writings.

A ransom for whom? Believers? Not just believers, but for all mankind. Some will argue this point, but John 3:16 clearly defines who Jesus died for. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”** This does not imply that all are saved, for He further explains who and how we can benefit from this news: **“that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

When we think of ransom, we usually think of those holding someone captive, then the captor demands a ransom. In this case, we might consider to whom this ransom is being paid. We would be wrong if we concluded it to be Satan, why? If it were Satan, then he would be the beneficiary of the payment, and if he were, then that would indicate that Satan had some power over Jesus, and our ability to be saved. It would also indicate that Jesus' death would be a gain for Satan, as Satan first thought it would be. The payment had to be made to God the Father, who took something evil, yet atoning, and turned it into a path for many to eternal life. God the Father holds the requirement of a blood sacrifice, in this case, even for His own Son. We must also remember what Jesus said in John 10:18: **“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”** Neither Pilate nor Satan had the power to take our Lord's life. The ransom was not in the ability of these two to require or receive.

We can go back to Genesis and the fall of mankind, when the serpent deceived Eve but Adam sinned, so the first blood of a living and earthly creature had to be shed to cover Adam and Eve's sin, their nakedness, which implies the attempt to hide their wrong. It was God who warned both Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of the tree, for they would die. It would take the shedding of blood, such as that God used to cover Adam and Eve's transgression. Throughout the Bible, we find sacrifices to cover sin, bringing sinners to a temporary atonement, and once again having fellowship with God.

Because God, being true to Himself, knowing man's earthly desires, provided a path to salvation, for that blood shed so long ago in our Lord Jesus and the cross. Satan never had control of anything connected to Jesus' death on the cross. It is very important to remember that it was Jesus Himself who laid down His life; no one took it, John 10:18.

Now, let me ask the question again: What is your worth? You say you know God, Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit. How could you not understand or give praise to God for who He made you to be, a child of His? Bought by the blood of the perfect Lamb, our Lord and Christ, Jesus, the Son of God. You are worth more to the Father than all the silver and gold in the world. Of all His creations, you as an individual are His, and He loves you so much He sent His Son to die in your place, remove our stains and shame, and cover it all with His atoning blood. When discussing investments, none is better than one that bears our sins.

The beggar stops Peter and John, Acts 3:2-10: 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

All the silver and gold in the world could not have purchased for him what Peter gave to him. Do you think this man complained about not getting any silver or gold? I believe he never once gave it any thought. In today's society, I believe many would complain, "What did you do this for? Now I'll need to show up at a job every morning, work all day, and repeat that until I get old. I'm suing." Can we really even wrap our heads around our worth as God sees us?

I believe a morning devotional is appropriate for all believers. We make choices about how we spend our incomes and evaluate our worth. There are choices involved in all of it; our lives demand choices.

April 22 – Morning

Choice, Change, Challenge “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” **MATTHEW 16:24 NIV:** What is a true Christian? First, a Christian is a person who has made a choice. We have to choose—just as Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden—to obey God or rebel against Him. We make that choice initially when we commit our lives to Christ, but we also make that choice day by day, moment by moment. What kind of choices are you making? Second, a Christian is a person whose life has been changed. That transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit. The moment you receive Christ—the moment you choose Him—the Spirit of God comes to live in your heart. What changes have taken place in your life—in your thoughts, feelings, behavior, goals, relationships—since you chose to follow Jesus? Third, a Christian is a person who has accepted a challenge. The challenge is Jesus’ call to deny self—our own selfish ambitions, our own selfish sinful pleasures—and take up our cross. In what ways are you denying yourself in order to follow Jesus? Choice, change, and challenge—these should characterize every Christian. Are they true of you?¹

The man Peter healed had a changed life and chose to express his joy with others, **“8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.”** Do people see you praising God in your life? Jesus ransomed us. Are you tucking that away, afraid others might mock you? Paul, the worst of sinners, says in **1 Timothy 1:15-16, This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.**

We are told in Revelation 12:10 about what Satan’s tactics are, **“For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night,”** But thanks be to Jesus’ atoning sacrifice. **1 Timothy 2:5: “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,”**

Andrew Murray makes a comment on another writer who spoke of the blood and the death of our Lord Jesus, in which he writes,

¹ Graham, Billy. Hope for Each Day Morning and Evening Devotions: Words of Wisdom and Faith (730 Daily Devotions) (p. 232). HarperCollins Christian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

The change of the expression reminds us how the two are one. The blood is through the death; the death is for the blood. The bloodshed and the death are the redemption and the ransom that, by sin-bearing and atonement, deliver us from transgressions and their power. All the transgressions of the old covenant had been treasured up; the death of Christ gave satisfaction to all that that covenant could claim and brought release. So the Mediator of the new covenant begins an entirely new economy, with sin put away by the sacrifice of Himself and an open path to the beginning of a new life in the favor and power of God.²

So we see here redemption and ransom tied with “The blood is through death.” Jesus died on the cross; that is how He redeemed us. “The death is for the blood.” Only Jesus could have shed the blood necessary to make the final and perfect sacrifice to open the path for us to salvation. All other sacrifices and priests had to be repeated; they were only temporary, Jesus’ blood was the fulfillment.

Hebrews 10:11-14: And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Again? What is your worth? You are a beloved child of God, and nothing can be more important than your faith in our Christ Jesus.

² Murray, Andrew. *Holiest of All: A Commentary on the Book of Hebrews* (pp. 339-340). Whitaker House. Kindle Edition.