

Volume 2 – Day 29: What We Value Most

In an eighth grade public school classroom a short time ago a student asked me if I could tell him something about life that would be useful after he had finished his education. It seemed to be a question beyond his age. So I asked the entire class if they wanted to hear what I would say. A resounding ‘yes’ was expressed by 30 students in a cacophony. I believe God must have inspired this profound answer with only five minutes left.

I asked the class, “What one thing in life do you want to have more than anything else. Give me a single word.” The clamorous response was unintelligible. So I asked each one individually. Twenty seven out of thirty responded with ‘love’, ‘family’, ‘friends’, ‘relationship’ and so forth. Only three responded with either fortune or fame. I suggested that those three wanted riches and fame so that they could buy friends. So what we all want most is to be accepted by others just as we are, with no changes.

I further explained that if we will give to others the **unconditional acceptance** which we ourselves desire, we will have fewer arguments and likely no wars. I later realized that this is the **key to the golden rule**, “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.”

Relationship treasurers, whether we admit it or not, are the most valuable of all treasures. As opposed to material things and heroes which do not respond to our affections, relationships always produce a return on investment. The more you love, the more you are loved. Another way to view this journey to intimacy is to *live loved and live loving*. “He who would have friends must show himself friendly.” And to be sure, he or she who would be loved, must be loving toward others. It is a simple matter planting and harvesting what we sew.

My Confirming Scriptures:

My Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan