

“What I do have I give thee...”

I am sure many of you are aware of the prices of precious metals these days. Gold and silver have exceeded all past prices and some days continue to climb in value. I know many people have invested in these two precious metals and will see a good return on their investment. Yes, we are all familiar with all the ads on television regarding this type of investment.

Valuable items beyond precious metals are a part of all of our lives. For many of us we can point to an item in our home and say this item is the most valuable piece that I have in my house and anyone who sees it understands why it has such high value. Some examples of this might be a piece of antique furniture, a piece of art signed by a master artist, or a piece of pottery with a certificate of authenticity that dates back thousands of years. For some of us we might point out an item in our home and say the same thing about it and everyone who looks at it will think....this is not valuable. This item is valuable because it has a special meaning in our lives that no one has experienced except the owner of the item. The item is special for its own sake. An example of this might be a picture or something you bought to remind you of a special time when you were traveling. You might own something that was passed down by the family member and it is difficult for others to identify with that as being something of value but for you it is priceless because of its memories.

Have you ever taken time to study the ways Jesus healed people? We did just that in a Sunday School Class once and went verse by verse throughout the New Testament. It was most interesting to see the varying ways people were healed. In some instances it was His touch and sometimes it was Him speaking. Some of the most exciting examples for me were the Roman Centurion requesting a healing for his servant and the centurion asked Jesus to “*speak a word*”. Or what about the lady with an issue of blood who believed that “*If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.*” And they were healed. I can only imagine how valuable these acts of mercy and grace were to the receiver. I can go to the stories in the Bible and find out how these people reacted.

So, where do we place our values today? What is it that evokes within us something that has a lot of value even when others cannot understand? The times have not changed that much even if we go back to the times of Jesus. Remember the time when Peter and John were going to the temple and a beggar asked them for money. Money had a value to the beggar. It could be used by this man for food and daily needs. But for Peter and John there was something more valuable that this man needed. More valuable than precious metals. More valuable than money. Remember? Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” (NIV Acts 3:9) And we know the man walked. And we know the man knew where this power came from. As Peter had said “....”in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.” And we can only believe that this healing was more valuable to the beggar as compared to what he had originally asked for. But the remaining part of the story is most valuable. The beggar stayed with Peter and John, went into the temple with these two men and

praised the Lord for his healing. He became a witness to others of the power of Jesus in his healing. So I must ask myself. Where do my values lie and have I been as bold as the beggar in proclaiming where all my blessings have come from? And you?

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