

Beautiful Things - Significance

We all want to have significance.

Luke 8:40-56

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. ⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house ⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. ⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

People of this story:

Jairus:

- He was the Ruler of the Synagogue
- He was a man of extreme prominence.
- He was significant.

Only daughter of Jairus:

- She was 12 years old.
- She was becoming a woman.
- Would likely be planning her engagement or wedding.

Bleeding Woman:

- She was sick for 12 years.
- This was a sickness that would have caused her to be considered unclean.
- This means she would have been an outcast from society – not allowed any physical contact.

God is whispering to you today, "You matter to me."

God is in the business of using people who think they are too far away from God to be used by God.

We see Jesus demonstrating that unclean things do not make him unclean, He makes them clean.

So What?

Commit to daily ask God to remove the veils from your eyes; that you may see as He sees.

You are significant in God's eyes.

Today's Scripture is from The New International Version
Kirk Proctor, December 31, 2011 & January 1, 2012

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Now What? Resources for Reflection & Growth

*If you are doing this as a small group, consider splitting up men and women as it may allow for deeper more honest answers to some of these questions.

Significance is often about self-esteem and how we feel about ourselves. Not always, but even people in positions of significance wonder if they are significant only because of their position and not because of who they are.

In what ways have you struggled with feeling significant? How has your self-esteem played a role in that?

Read Genesis 3:1-7

The serpent told Eve, God doesn't want you to eat from that tree because he knows something you don't. Satan says, God knows you will then gain wisdom and know what He knows. Satan is basically telling Eve, you aren't good enough, you need more wisdom and you don't have it. From the beginning Satan began temptation with, "You aren't good enough". In what ways have you felt Satan tell you aren't good enough?

Ask the following questions – see if any of them resonate with you or maybe there are other questions, doubts, or self-esteem questions that have arisen in your life that aren't here – share those too.

At work? Do you feel appreciated and respected? Do you doubt whether you can do your job well enough or continue to do it well? Do you fear losing your job and failing your family financially?

In Marriage? Do you struggle feeling attractive enough for your spouse? Do you wonder if you are good enough for your spouse? Do you doubt the love in your marriage? Do you treat your spouse differently because of how you feel about yourself?

As a Single Person? Do you question whether you will be loved by someone else? Do you wonder if you are attractive enough? Do you doubt you will find the "right" person?

As a Parent? Do you blame your children's decisions on yourself? Do you question whether you can really do this?

As a Student? Do you question your ability? Do you doubt who you are and if you are on the right path?

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As a Friend? Do you feel like you lack having any good friends? Do you question why people would want to be your friends? Do you struggle sometimes leaving the house?

When Satan tells us we aren't good enough, what temptations often follow?

How do we as Christians, stand up against these temptation?

We need to learn and memorize scripture. See if you can find scripture for each person in your group (or for yourself) that you can each memorize (each person may have a different scripture) that will help you stand up to Satan's attack on your self-esteem. What scriptures can remind you that you are significant to God and you matter to God. He has a plan for you (hint: the easy place to start is Jeremiah 29:11 – see what else you can find too!)