

# THE VALUE OF A SOUL

## PASTOR NATHAN ELMS

After telling His disciples and others nearby the cost of being His disciple, Jesus asked...

*"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" - Mk 8:36-37*

With these words of Jesus we are reminded of the value of the soul...

It is the most valuable possession one has

All earthly possessions, position, pleasure, and power are not worth the value of one's soul!  
[But perhaps some might wonder...]

When we study the words of Jesus, we most commonly let them stand alone... But we must also let them stand in context...

First, let these words stand alone!

### WHY IS THE SOUL OF MAN SO VALUABLE? IT IS MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE...

Man was created in the image of God - Gen 1:26-27

Yet God does not have a physical body like ours - cf. Jn 4:24; Lk 24:39

Therefore it must be our soul, or spirit, that is in God's image

This is what enable us to comprehend abstract concepts as:

- Life, death, eternity
- Things of beauty
- A moral sense of ought, right and wrong, good and evil
- Making us more than just animal creatures

*Psalm 8:3-6*

*New Living Translation*

*3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—  
the moon and the stars you set in place—*

*4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them,  
human beings that you should care for them?[a]*

*5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God[b]  
and crowned them[c] with glory and honor.*

*6 You gave them charge of everything you made,  
putting all things under their authority—*

## THE SOUL DOES NOT CEASE TO EXIST AT DEATH...

The body dies, and soon returns back to the dust

The soul, or spirit, returns back to God - Ec 12:7

Awaiting the resurrection of the body - cf. 1Co 15:35-58

Which is why we need to evaluate all things (possessions, decisions, actions) from an eternal perspective, from the soul's viewpoint - Mt 10:28; 16:26

## WHAT WILL ONE GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?

FOR SOME IT IS EARTHLY RICHES AND FAME...

In their quest for riches, they neglect their service to God - 1Ti 6:10  
Yet they've traded their souls for what is corruptible and can be stolen - Mt 6:19-21

FOR OTHERS IT IS THE PASSING PLEASURES OF SIN...

Like the young man tempted by the harlot - Pr 5:1-14  
In a moment's passion, lives are destroyed (AIDS, unwanted pregnancies)  
Marriages and families are ruined  
Young people in the Bible should inspire us to make the right choices

FOR MANY IT IS SIMPLE NEGLECT...

They will not use the opportunities the Lord has given them - cf. Mt 25:24-30  
They fail to apply the diligence necessary to grow spiritually - cf. 2Pe 1:5-11

Lastly,

We want to consider these words in their context. Jesus has introduced the disciples to the painful reality of self-sacrifice in pursuit of a spiritual mission. He invited them to the same path he is on. To "deny self, take up your cross, and follow me." This is the setting for this statement of "losing your soul."

Your soul needs a spiritual mission. You are made, designed, to make a difference. Your individual gifts are a divine investment in you. And you need to do something with that investment.