

The Price Is Right –

The Price Is Right theme music <https://youtu.be/13tnjh3dZw4>

Let me open with Prayer.

The series, "The Price Is Right" premiered on [NBC](#)'s daytime schedule on November 26, 1956. It moved from NBC to CBS in 1972 and Bob Barker became the host until 2007. It has aired more than 9,000 episodes and is the longest running network series in the history of United States television. I am sure you have all seen it, contestants make successive bids on merchandise prices with the goal of bidding the closest to the actual retail price of the prize without going over. Understanding the value of something, what it is worth, is the key to winning.

In its early days the show was famous for having some outlandish or "exceptionally unique" bonus prizes:

- The winner of a color TV, also received a live peacock to serve as a "color guide"
- The winner of a barbecue pit and the usual accessories also received a live Angus steer
- A bonus prize of a trip to Israel included an appearance as an extra in the 1960 film [Exodus](#)

Now I have never been one to watch a lot of game shows but I know some people plan their day or evening around specific game shows. I do find some game shows to be humorous. Here are some examples of some really funny answers to questions asked of contestants.

"Name something that follows the word 'pork.'" Answer: "Cue-pine"

"Name a kind of bear." Answer: "Papa" The second contestant answered Yogi

"Name a tradition associated with Christmas." Answer: "Hanukkah"

"Name a city in the state of Georgia." Answer: "Alabama"

"Name a children's story about an animal." Answer: "David and Goliath"

"Name a person whose name starts with the letter K." Answer: "Kentucky Fried Chicken"

"Name an animal that primarily eats grass" Answer: "Anteater"

One of the reasons I don't like game shows is I am terrible at them. I am the worst speller EVER. My inability to spell was really what lead me to cry out to God. Remember the Spelling bee contests in elementary school. Hate is not a strong enough word to describe how I dreaded spelling bees. You usually knew a day in advance it was going to happen so at the age of 7 or 8 years old I would go to bed at night praying the Lord would deliver me. Please let the school be flooded! Strike the teacher with strep throat! Anything, Lord but deliver me from this spelling bee. Then the next day, when the dreaded spelling bee would commence, I would shrink in my chair in an effort to avoid being seen, praying under my breath and sweating drops of blood. The game would start with the teacher selecting two kids to be captains and they would take turns picking who was on their team. In sports, I was usually one of the first kids picked, but when it came to spelling bees the selection process would end with one of the captains saying, "ok, I pick so and so and your stuck with Jeffery. Eventually, my name would be called and the teacher would call out the word I was supposed to spell. It really didn't matter what word I was asked to spell, I was so panicked by the time I was called on, I couldn't have spelled my name correctly. Clearly it was a traumatic experience for me to remember it in such detail over 60 years later. If there are any teachers listing to this message, I implore you to do away with spelling bees!

The reason I started my lesson off with the Price Is Right is for the past eleven months, I have been wrestling with the question **"how much is that worth?"** On a daily basis, I ask myself that question. In preparing today's lesson I did run across an interesting documentary on the Price Is Right called Perfect Bid: The Contestant Who Knew Too Much.

Watch this clip.

SLIDE #

Ted Slauson is the focus of the 2017 documentary. Slauson, who was math wizard, became fascinated with the show in the early 1970s, and spent over 35 years memorizing the prices of products. Ted played a role in the only perfect bid in the history of the show and because he knew the price of almost every item Ted had an advantage over all the other contestants. He had done his homework and knew what each price was worth. Ted knew the price of things but one price he didn't know was your price? How much are you worth? Maybe, you don't know how much you're worth! I want to spend the next few minutes trying to help

you answer that question, “How much are you worth?” Repeat that after me, “How Much am I worth?” The second question I want to have you think is “How to determine what is of worth to you?” How much are you worth? How to determine what is of worth to you.

Let me open us up in prayer.

A little over a year ago, Oct. 1st, 2020, I was blessed to share my testimony from this pulpit of how the Lord was my “Waymaker” while I worked at a company in Fort Worth, PDX, for over 27 years. Those 27 years saw me raise from an entry level employee of a small company, to my become the CEO of the company that grew to become the nation’s leading software and services provider for the retail pharmacy industry with over 600 people on its payroll and operations in three countries. Throughout those 27 years, (SHOW SLIDE) the Lord revealed himself to me as my Waymaker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the Darkness, time and time again. My career ended at the company shortly after it was sold, and I spoke to this congregation about my plans for my future. But as the saying goes “The best laid plans of mice and man often go awry” or another way of saying it “Man plans and God laughs”! I have been asked many times this year, “How is retirement going”? Well, “It’s not going!”

My plans for my future took a totally different path following an event on November twenty third, of last year. It was on that date that the founder and owner of the company I had worked for over 27 years passed away. (Show slide of Ken). Ken was the most unique individual I have ever know. He used his visionary talent to build a very successful company, change an industry, and build a very sizable personal estate. When Ken died, his family asked me to officiate his funeral. Due to COVID restrictions, it was held at a small outdoor gathering up on Comanche Peak, one of the landmarks of this city and county. When you walk out the front of the church, look to the horizon off to the right and you will see the Peak where Ken is buried in a crypt.

Shortly after the funeral, I learned his will had named me to be the executor of his estate. The executor of an estate is someone who wraps up a deceased individual's financial affairs. If the deceased has a will, the will usually names a close relative, friend, accountant, attorney or financial institution to act as executor of the will. Ken never once asked me if I would agree to serve

in that role. His will is public record so I am not sharing anything with you that you couldn't look up if you were so inclined. So instead of pursuing the future I had planned, I agreed to serve as executor of Ken's estate. I have never done this before. I couldn't even spell executor much less know what that meant. But, hey, why not start with a HUGE estate?

Additionally, I was asked to assume the CEO and Chairman of the Board for a new start-up company Ken had founded after selling PDX. Ken was the majority shareholder and as executor of his estate I now voted his shares. Being the company was privately owned and Ken was the majority shareholder, I essentially serve in Ken's place. Ken's personal assets and many of the company's assets were "comingled" or "intertwined" in ways I will not get into this morning but as executor of his estate and CEO of his new company, I needed to untangle these assets and divest not only Ken stuff but assets in the company that had nothing to do with the company's core business. So, I found myself in a position of trying to answer a simple question, "What is this worth". You see the executor of the estate of this size is required to appear before a probate court and produce documents that show the total value of the estate. I am hoping, I am praying, that will take place by the end of this year. The estate and the non-core assets of the company are vast: **SHOW SLIDES**

- five houses (show house slides) What are these houses worth
- Two airplanes? What are these airplanes worth? There were two of them
- Cars – 17 total – some classic cars, some late model luxury car
- Boats – Racing boats, luxury boats, house boats, wooden boats.
- Fine Art
- Jewelry
- Expensive furniture
- Indian artifacts
- Real estate, including Comanche Peak

(SHOW PRICE IS RIGHT SLIDE)

It was my responsibility to determine what all of this stuff was worth and report that to the probate court. In some ways, Ken could not have picked a less qualified person to do this, as those of you that know me are aware that I am not a car guy, I drive a 2015 Dodge truck. I don't live in a mansion. The most valuable

pictures I have in my house are those of my family, and I sold the only boat I had a number of years ago. But Ken trusted me and I was honored to be named his executor....I just wish he would have asked me first!

The one question I had to answer for each and every item in the estate, from the houses, to the knives and forks in the house, was "What is this worth?" I will turn into the court the "estimated value" of each item. There is a second question that is very similar to the first question but this question has a totally different answer. The question is "What was each item worth to Ken?" The answer to that question is; It is worth whatever Ken was willing to pay for it. The value of anything to a specific person is what they are willing to pay for it.

A few minutes ago, I posed two questions to you; What are you worth? And, "How to determine what is of worth to you?"

Are you ready for the answer to the first question, "What are you worth?"

You are so valuable that the creator of the word, God Almighty, allowed his son, Jesus, to die for YOU. Why would he do that?.....

(Slide of Jesus on the cross)

Because he loves you and he doesn't want to be separated from you. His desire is for you come live with him for eternity when you leave this earth. Why did it require Jesus Christ to be crucified in order for you to have a chance to spend eternity in heaven? Because sin has no place in the presence of God, and regardless of how "good" you are, you have sinned. We are all sinners. And the only way you have an opportunity to have your sins forgiven, removed, is by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior because he is the only one that has ever walked this earth, that will ever walk this earth, that lived a sinless life. You can't be smart enough, rich enough, attractive enough, talented enough, funny enough, persuasive enough to get to heaven. The ONLY way is through Jesus Christ.

[John 3:16](#)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

That is what you are worth!!

John 14:6s

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

I understand that this could be offensive to people, this message of the only way to heaven is through Jesus. I don't apologize for this message. I didn't come up with this plan. If you have issue with it you will have an opportunity when you leave this earth complain about it directly to God Almighty. I understand the many people throughout the ages have done some hurtful, harmful, unspeakable things in the name of Jesus; in the name of Christianity, and the reason for those things happening is Christians are sinners. We make mistakes. Also, there are some people who call themselves Christians but are Christian in name only.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!

Part of closing an estate like Ken's involves holding auctions. The auctions associated with Ken estate are online auctions but I am sure all of you are familiar with how a live auction works. The auctioneer will point to a specific item, describe it, answer any questions about the item, then set a minimum opening bid for the item and open it up for bids; buyers begin shouting out their bid until

only one bidder remains and the auctioneer shouts “Sold, for X amount of money to the man in the Blue Dallas Cowboy ball cap.

I recently turned 70 yrs old. I reflected on the life I have lived and considered what awaits me when I leave this earth. At some point in this process I visualized an auction taking place for me. There are only two bidders; Satan and Jesus. I can imagine how I would be described by the auctioneer. The short version would be “70 year old very experienced Sinner”. A video would be played on a big screen showing everything I have done in my life ...everything I had said, and everything I had thought. It was difficult for me to watch and it was playing in a very fast speed...it was overwhelming. After the video ended, the auctioneer asked if there were any questions. Satan began to ask that specific parts of the video be played again at normal speed. Each of the parts he selected showed me at my worst; clearly he was making a case for how worthless I was. Then Jesus asked the auctioneer to have the video show July 14th, 1963 at 6:45 in the evening. The video shows me stepping out of church pew and walk to the front of a very small Church of Christ in Elgin, Texas. At the front stood the preacher, Brother DeSpain. You hear him ask me why I came forward to which I replied in my 11 year old voice “I want to be saved”. Brother DeSpain asked me, “Jeffery, do you believe that Jesus Christ was the son of God?” I answered “Yes”. Do you believe He came to this world and lived a sinless life? “Yes, Sir. Do you believe he willing died on the cross for your sins, was buried in a tomb, and then was resurrected from the dead and now sits out the right hand of God? “Yes, Sir”. Are you willing to declare Him to be the Lord of your life? Yes Sir. Brother DeSpain turned and point to the baptistry and say, “Here is water, would you like to be baptized?” Yes. And then you would see me being baptized. At that point Jesus said to the Auctioneer, I have seen enough, you can stop the film. Let’s start the bidding. The auctioneer asked for a bid and Jesus said, without hesitation, in a normal voice, my bid is I will give up my life for Jeffrey Lee Farris! **What!!** Satan yelled, “But what about the film clip from High School, what about his first couple of years in college? What about 1984 where he left the church and quite following you? What about that? And Jesus shouted, HE IS MINE! The auctioneer asks Satan if he has a higher bid... he is speechless. Then the auctioneer shouts in a loud voice, “SOLD” to the man with the holes in is hands, holes in his feet, and a gapping wound on his side! And Jesus shouted IT IS FINISHED!! Welcome home!

What am I worth, what are you worth?

John 3:16 tells us what we are worth. The Lord loves me so much, he loves you so much, he has loved everyone that has ever taken a breath so much that he gave up his life for each of us. He died a terrible death for each of us. It was the most costly gift you could ever be given. But you have to receive it. He will not force it on you. If you haven't received that gift of salvation, you will have that opportunity in a few minutes.

Romans 10: 7-8 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰

Maybe you confessed with your mouth but didn't believe in your heart?

No one can answer that question for you? Only you know the answer? What if you played out an auction scene for you? If the video of your life were replayed, would there be a part of the video that showed you confessing with your mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord. Would the video show that in your heart you believed that Jesus Christ is your Lord?

Now, let's address the second question, "How to determine what is of worth to you?" Let's start by looking at one of Jesus' parables recorded in the gospel of Luke.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

(LOST SHEEP SLIDE)

15 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man ³ receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' ⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine ⁸ just persons who need no repentance.

Tell the story of the lost sheep.

Someone might think it would be foolish to leave the ninety nine sheep to go looking for the one....but what if you were the one sheep that was lost?

In this parable, Jesus is the shepherd and the sheep represent people. It is obvious how much the lost sheep was valued by the Shepherd.

In the [Gospel of John](#), Jesus states "I am the good shepherd" in two verses, [John 10:11](#) and [10:14](#).

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who doesn't own the sheep, sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and flees. The wolf snatches the sheep, and scatters them. The hired hand flees because he is a hired hand, and doesn't care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and I'm known by my own; even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep.

One can get an idea of how something, or someone, is valued by someone by observing how the individual takes care of it; how much time the individual invests in it; invests time and money; how the individual talks about it; there are lots of clues that could help answer that question. I can see how much the Lord values me, not only by providing me with a Savior but also by how He cares for me. He is available to me every day, all day, at any time I can call on his name and talk to him; he has arranged for me to have access to the instruction manual of life, the bible ; he has given me the gift of the Holy Spirit; He lives inside of me! He has established His church for me to be a part of and serve in and be served; he has assigned angels to watch over me; he has arranged for all my needs to be met; he has a heavenly home awaiting me when I leave this earth. In what other way could he show me he loves me and values me? I can't think of one.

But in return, what have I done to show the Lord how much I love him? What have you done to show the Lord how much you value him? To be clear, I am not talking about earning your salvation. I am talking about living a life that demonstrates how much you love the Lord and how much you appreciate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, how much you value this one of a kind gift!

A number of years ago, I believe I was led by the Lord to donate a kidney to one of the members of this church, Gary Kidder. I remember walking down the hall to his room some time after the surgery. He was thrilled to not be on dialysis. And he took my hand and looked me in the eye and thanked me for “lefty”. That is what we called my kidney he now had. He asked me “how is righty was doing” and we both laughed. And then he made a promise to me that he would take care of lefty, he would do everything in his power to protect it and would live a life that would bring no harm to it. And I believe he did just that. He valued it! He knew his life depended on Lefty doing its job.

But if Gary had not taken care of it? How do you think I would have felt if he took the gift of my kidney as being no big deal? I would have been so disappointed.

Do you value the gift God has given you, the gift of a Savior? Do you value his Church? How does your life reflect how much you believe Christ’s sacrifice is worth to you?

I am going to play a song called Rescue. It is 3 ½ minutes long. The song is written from the perspective of the Lord singing to the you. The words are as follows:

Rescue

You are not hidden
There's never been a moment
You were forgotten
You are not hopeless
Though you have been broken
Your innocence stolen
I hear you whisper underneath your breath
I hear your SOS, your SOS
I will send out an army to find you
In the middle of the darkest night
It's true, I will rescue you
There is no distance
That cannot be covered
Over and over

You're not defenseless
I'll be your shelter
I'll be your armor
I hear you whisper underneath your breath
I hear your SOS, your SOS
I will send out an army to find you
In the middle of the darkest night
It's true, I will rescue you
I will never stop marching to reach you
In the middle of the hardest fight
It's true, I will rescue you
I hear the whisper underneath your breath
I hear you whisper, you have nothing left
I will send out an army to find you
In the middle of the darkest night
It's true, I will rescue you
I will never stop marching to reach you
In the middle of the hardest fight
It's true, I will rescue you
Oh, I will rescue you

Life can be hard, cruel, mean, hurtful, and it can cause you to run and hide. It isn't difficult to get lost. But it can be difficult to find our way back home. While you listen to this song, spend some time reflecting on where you are at in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Do you need to be rescued?

Play the song and ask the worship team to come up.

There will come a time when my role as executor of Ken's estate will end. Everything will be assigned a value, it will be sold or distributed according to the instructions in the will. And I will go before a judge in a probate court and will testify to my having fulfilled my role as executor. I will be required to provide a list of everything in the estate along with the status of everything in the estate and at some point I will no longer be responsible for taking care of Ken's estate.

There will come a time in each of our lives where we will no longer walk on this earth. When that time comes, we will be judged on whether we accepted the gift of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and how much we valued that gift.

Ask the Prayer team to come up.

There are followers of Christ up here available for you to meet. Come forward if you want to confess with your mouth and believe with your heart that Jesus Christ is the Lord of your life. Perhaps you need to be rescued. Come forward and get rescued.

Mat 21:15-17 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? HE saith unto him, Yes, Lord, Thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Leave here today and Feed the lambs and the sheep. Be a witness for Christ.

Pray The Blessing

(AS a country, as a state, as a county, as a city, we collectively and individually have stood silent for to long, we have sat on our hands, and stood on the sidelines for too long when it comes to neglecting our responsibilities for taking care of the gift God had given us to live hear. Home of the Brave, Land of the Free! At best we thank the Lord for letting us live here but we have not stepped up to defending it from attacks from both abroad and within. We now see the results of our not rising up, and calling out the wrongs being done to our country. Christ cleansed the Temple; he called out the hypocrisy all around him, and defended those who could not defend themselves. It lead to his death, but he was doing what the Father had called him to do. The reason we see our county falling apart, our schools teaching Critical Race Theory; the udder ridiculousness of gender identity;

the unbelievable indebtedness being run up; it because we have allowed it to happen. But there is one more reason for why our country is on the path it is on...we have neglected Christ, we have rejected Christ, we have become, in many ways a non-Christian nation. We have become a nation of lost sheep.

*We will not walk out of the church today having solved all the world's problems, but we each have the opportunity today to walk out of this church committed to serve Christ and his church. **No one can** convince me that a city filled with followers of Christ, a county filled with followers of Christ, a state filled with followers of Christ, a nation filled with followers of Christ cannot return our land to what God envisioned it to be.)*