

Terry Kniess went on The Price is Right in Sept. of 2008. At contestant row, he big on the Big Green Egg (it's a grill), the bid \$1.175. The actual value \$1,175.00. It went on to get .90 cents in the spin to decide who goes to the showcase showdown. That would be enough.

At the showcase his opponent Karen had in her showcase full of prizes, four trips and a few other things, her bid \$30,525 actual retail value \$31,019 she missed it by \$494.00. That's a pretty good bid.

Terry was up next his showcase included a trailer and a jukebox among others his bid \$23,743. Actual retail value \$23,743. He won both showcases. It caused an uproar many thought he cheated. He says he and his wife watched the show every day for 4 months and saw the pattern the last three numbers he was just luck with he picked 743 because that was the number he and wife had used for their PINs, their security codes, their bets: their wedding date, the seventh of April, and her birth month, March.

How does that tie into my message today, listen to this quote:

Oscar Wilde once wrote, "Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing."

I want to talk today about Have you considered?

There are many things to consider. I want to share with you a couple. It may seem at first that I'm traveling through many forests, but I promise by the time I finish today it will come full circle.

How many of you like to be thought about? Considered for the promotion, considered to be a friend of God?

Let me start by reading Job 1:8 - <sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Now here is the background in verse 1 he is called blameless and upright, one who fears God and shuns evil. He had 7 sons and three daughters, owned 7000 sheep. Three thousand camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 donkeys. Plus, it had a large number of servants. It went on to say that he was greatest man among all the people of the East.

I would dare say he was blessed.

And the one day something that forever changed his life happened verse 6 tells us:

Job 1:6 (NIV) - <sup>6</sup> One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

So here we have angels in the presence of God and Satan tags along. Verse 7 continues,

Job 1:7 (NIV) - <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

Satan tells the Lord I've been roaming the earth looking for someone to consider.

That's where our story began. The Lord asks, "have you considered Job?"

Think about it this way, when God considers you he is bragging about you.

Satan decides it must be because of the hedge of blessing you have given him is the reason why he serves and follows you.

So, the Lord says all that he has is in your power, but don't touch the man.

Not too long after that a messenger comes and tells Job that the oxen are stolen, servants were dead, as he was still speaking another came, while he was still speaking another came, and yet while he was still speaking and another came and with that Job found out that his livestock was gone, family gone.

But listen to Job's response:

Verses 20 and 21. . .

Job 1:20–21 (NIV) - <sup>20</sup> At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup> and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

I'm convinced most of us would not have responded that way. Many of us complain about not being liked on Facebook, let alone losing everything we care about.

Job 1:22 (NIV) - <sup>22</sup> In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Now it would be great if the story stops there. But it doesn't look at the next chapter.

Job 2:1–3 (NIV) - On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it." <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

The Lord once again says alright do anything you want, but you must spare his life.

Still want to be considered by God?

Job 2:9 (NIV) - <sup>9</sup> His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

Isn't it amazing that when it seems as though God has forsaken you, the ones that were with you turn against you?

*Job never wavered in his integrity. He held firmly to the character of God and focused on Him instead of the current circumstances.*

Job has wife tell him, his friends tell him to curse God and die. Other things happen to him and yet we find in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter and verse 15 how strong Job's relationship with God truly was. Job says . . .

Job 13:15 (NIV) - <sup>15</sup> Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.

Job went through a bunch of stuff. But he never lost hope in God.

Could it be that some of the things you are going through right now is because the Lord considered you.

He considered you faithful, available, worthy, He considered you able to accomplish what He has planned for you.

Still want to be considered?

Job 42:2 (NIV) - <sup>2</sup> "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:10 (NIV) - <sup>10</sup> After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

Paul said it this way . . .

1 Timothy 1:12 (NIV) - <sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.

Now let's consider some more.

Psalms 8:3-4 (NIV) - <sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Luke 12:24 (NIV) - <sup>24</sup> **Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!**

Luke 12:27 (NIV) - <sup>27</sup> **"Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.**

Romans 8:18 (NIV) - <sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Paul goes on to explain why.

Romans 8:19 (NIV) - <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

If you can hold on when the tough side of life hits then those around you can see God revealed through you.

How you respond to life's circumstances really does make a difference.

As a matter of fact, look what James tells us,

James 1:2 (NIV) - <sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

You want me to do what? Consider it pure joy.

But nobody commented on my post. Consider it pure joy. But I was unfriended, Consider it pure joy. They stopped following me, Consider it pure joy.

James goes on to say.

James 1:3 (NIV) - <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

But why do I need perseverance?

James 1:4 (NIV) - <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1 Peter 1:6–7 (NIV) - <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Another thing to consider how do you live?

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV) - <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

Do you consider how you can spur one another toward love and good deeds?

Let me pause here for a moment and ask you this, is good always obvious?

Not everything that appears good, is good. If it were then why would Solomon ask for wisdom? Look what he says in 1 Kings chapter 3.

1 Kings 3:9 (NIV) - <sup>9</sup> So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to **distinguish** between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

Another translation says good and evil.

If right and wrong, good and evil are so easy to discern then why. . .

Hebrews 5:14 (NIV) - <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV) - <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Wait a second pastor we can't talk about correction. We are a church of grace and God's word tells us in Romans 2. . .

Romans 2:4 (NIV) - <sup>4</sup> Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

So, if God's kindness leads us to repentance how can we have correction.

Do you remember the quote at the very beginning of my message by Oscar Wilde, "Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing?"

When it comes to the cross I'm afraid too many don't understand the price or the value.

The price Jesus paid, because He understood your value.

I know Jesus loves me too much to leave me where I was, or where I am. He has so much more than I have ever experienced and if it takes some correction to get me there so be it.

Ravi Zaccharias has said, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay. —"

I am alright with correction, think about it this way if you set your GPS for a destination and you veer from the directions it does something. What does it do it redirects (corrects) itself to get you back on the correct path.

Correction from the Holy Spirit, the pastor, the prophet isn't to shame someone, or make them feel less adequate. It is to place us back on the correct route.

Let me try to wrap this up today and bring it full circle back to Job, but I first want to talk a little more about the goodness of God through the first family. No not our President, but Adam and Eve.

I have been talking about how good may not be as recognizable as some think. If you want more detail I suggest reading Good or God from John Bevere it is a great book on this subject.

Let me just share a few points that he mentions. These are not exact quotes, but rather just taken some ideas from that book.

Before I do that, I think it is important that you realize that there really is nothing good outside of what God has for you.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) - <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

James puts it this way,

James 1:16–17 (NIV) - <sup>16</sup> Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Let’s get back to Eve.

Genesis 2:16–17 (NIV) - <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Now I have heard a lot of messages on this Scripture. If you think for a moment that there were only two trees in the garden I believe you would be mistaken. So where is God’s goodness in all of this.

Let’s say there were 1000 trees, God was saying 999 are all yours, but this one here. . . don’t eat. The tree of knowledge of God and evil don’t eat that one. That is the goodness of God.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV) - <sup>11</sup> in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

What schemes did he use on Eve? Let’s take a sneak peek.

Genesis 3:1 (NIV) - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

The first thing the enemy wants to trip you up on is to get your focus off the goodness of God. Did God really say you must not eat of that tree?

She had a bunch of others that were good to eat, but if the enemy can get you to focus on what you don’t have. . .

Genesis 3:4 (NIV) - <sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.

Satan was saying God lied to you.

Titus 1:1–2 (NIV) - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—<sup>2</sup> in the hope of eternal life, which **God, who does not lie**, promised before the beginning of time,

Here’s what happens:

- Satan lies to God about you. He is a liar and a cheat (God says have you considered. . .)
- Satan lies to you about God. God can't use you. God is holding things back from you.
- Satan lies to you about you. You haven't changed a bit.
- Satan lies to you about each other. You're not as good as them.

But here is what you need to do need to declare back to God what He has declared over you.

Genesis 3:5 (NIV) - <sup>5</sup>“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Eve I'm offering you what God held back from you.

Proverbs 25:2 (NIV) - <sup>2</sup>It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

God doesn't hide things from you so that you can't find them He wants us to search out the things he has for you.

It would be like this

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NIV) Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

Eagerly desire, if you're hungry enough for the things of God you will search out what He has for you. It's not that He doesn't want you to locate them, He wants you to realize nothing is worth more then what He has for you.

It ceases to amaze me that we will go for hours from store to store searching for the hot new thing, but we are lack the desire to look to the Word, to find His promises.

In Genesis 3:5 Satan perverted God's character.

Genesis 3:6 (NIV) - <sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was **good** for food and **pleasing** to the eye, and **desirable** for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

It wasn't the good side of the tree of Knowledge and Good and Evil that Eve was attracted to it was the good side.

Let me try to finish here and bring this right back around to Job. Job never lost his focus on the goodness of God he said

Job 1:21 (NIV) - <sup>21</sup>and said: “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”

Haggai 2:9 (NIV) - <sup>9</sup>‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”

Joel 2:25 (NIV) - <sup>25</sup>“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm— my great army that I sent among you.

Whatever the enemy has tried to take away from you, God wants to restore it. God wants to make it better than before.

He says my grace is sufficient for you. My mercy is bigger than your mistakes.

Job 42:10 (NIV) - <sup>10</sup> After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

Job 42:12 (NIV) - <sup>12</sup> The LORD blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys.



