

STRENGTH in WEAKNESS

Is Jesus Worth It?

2 Corinthians 11:23-29 (ESV)

²³ Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

The **context**:

Who is a “true apostle” of God?

By what standard will you measure?

A criterion to apply to all teaching:

Paul’s experiences beg **other questions for us ...**

How much would I give for the sake of following Christ?

How much would I give up or go without to follow Him?

How much would I suffer for His sake?

How much would I risk to be faithful to Him?

What would it take to stop me from following Him?

Would I follow Him and obey Him if I had to go it alone?

How much am I willing to struggle as I follow Him?

Is He worth it?

Some lessons on **value**:

Not everyone has the same _____.

Things not _____ tend to be _____.

Not understanding the _____ of a thing diminishes its perceived _____.

We tend to value the _____ more than the _____
or _____.

When we measure the value of Christ, most often we consider his
_____ worth.

Eternally ...

Temporally ...

We tend to disregard the _____ worth of Christ.

1 Peter 2:7 (NIV)

“Now to you who believe, this stone is precious ...

Philippians 3:7-8 (ESV)

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ...

Revelation 5:12 (ESV)

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

If God reveals the *inherent* worth of Christ to us, we should _____
_____ and _____.

Matthew 13:44-46 (ESV)

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

My response: