

# Weaving the Word

## *Secret Significance*

Part 31 – May 10, 2015

Welcome to where we're learning to find our significance in the only One who can grant it.



How many of you have ever ironed money?

How many of you think that's a little crazy?

Why? Because, **it has no bearing on the value.**

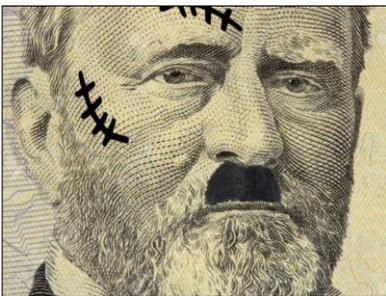
But, crisp bills are great for birthday cards, vending machine use, and parts of Asia that refuse heavily used bills because of germs. Travel sites *recommend ironing* for that.



Medium heat. Heavy starch.

And I got'a say, even though it doesn't affect the value, there is a joy that comes from making a crumpled bill crisp again.

But, **if I take this crisp \$50 and crumple it, trample it, even spit on it, what's it worth (outside parts of Asia)?** What if I defile President Grant's prestigious image? A couple scars and a little "Hitler" mustache, what's it worth *now*?



Grant is *not* amused; but, **a defiled bill retains all its undefiled value. As do you.** Why? **Its value is determined by something far greater than itself: its creator. As is yours.**

**Your value cannot be lessened by whatever has defiled you, whether at the hands of another, or your own poor choices.**

Just as, **your value cannot increase by what you've ironed out.**



There's a joy that comes from un-crumpling the mess we've made of our self, and rightly so; but, it has no bearing on our value.

That's been determined by another far greater.

**"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."** **[This is your value!]** – John 15:13 NIV

**You are worth the greatest love of the greatest One.**

Defiled as you might be.

I want to give this \$50 away to someone who didn't earn it and did nothing to deserve it.



**There are only two reasons it's yours:**

- 1. I chose to offer it.**
- 2. You chose to receive it.**

Seems so simple. Till you think of it in terms of the significance God offers us.

**Does your self-esteem adjust to the opinion of others?**

**Does it inflate and deflate due to careless comments?**

**How do you determine your sense of self-worth?** Job? School? Car? Money? Power? Popularity? Appearance? Respect? **Each one of these is just an identity crisis waiting to happen!**

Why not just receive the secret God is offering?



Jesus' young apprentices were hooked on the opinions of the overtly religious, who in turn desired the praise of man. So, Jesus tackles this topic on the hill.



“Be careful [Why? This adversary is *subtle, shrewd, and alluring*] not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ [i.e. *good deeds and giving*] before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. [Why? Because, in your heart you're serving yourself; and, you're refusing to receive the secret significance that He alone offers] “So when you give to the needy, [Notice He doesn't say, “*If you give*”. Giving isn't a choice ... *obedience is*] do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men.” – Matthew 6:1-2a NIV

**Whose honor are you after?** noise makers?

Curiously, there was no practice, in Jesus' day, of blowing a trumpet when giving. In fact, Jesus doesn't use the word “blow” or “shofar” (which is the usual type of horn they blew).

**He says, “Don't make trumpet noise.”**

It's an expression, like “toot your own horn”.



In the Temple was a covered area known as the treasury, housing **13 separate offering containers called trumpets** (because of the trumpet shape neck where the coins went).

**You could put ‘em in nice and quiet or throw ‘em in good and loud.** And, Jesus used to teach there. (John 8:20)

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. **[The place where you could learn the most about the people]** Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins ... – Mark 12:41-42 NIV



This could probably be discerned more from sound than sight. And, those who had ears to hear could distinguish self-serving acts of giving from those that were softly offered to the Lord.

This is NOT an “offering trumpet”

“I went to the money changers and exchanged mine for pennies.” CLANG. CLANG. CLANG.

### **Approval grabbing givers literally made a trumpet sound!**

**“I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.”** – Matthew 6:2c NIV

Paul says, (1 Cor 13) though we may give *all* our possessions to feed the poor, without love we gain nothing. (v.3) And, without love, our high sounding, highly regarded words just become, what?

A noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (v.1)

**And, what’s the sound a self-seeking offering tosser makes when loudly pelting the Temple offering trumpets with their coins?**

Jesus warns His impressionable apprentices to be aware of the “trumpet sounders” wherever they are, in the church (synagogue) or on the street, and beware that you don’t become like ‘em.

**They appear to be giving, when in fact they’re trying to take.**

**“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,”** – Matthew 6:3 NIV

There’s another oddly specific right hand reference.

He doesn’t say not to let *one hand* know what the *other* is doing; or, don’t let your *right hand* know what your *left* is doing.

**The word “know” means to partner with or become intimate with.**

And, remember in “Turn the Other Cheek”, how **the left hand took a backseat, because of its distinct backseat responsibilities?**



Well, just as you'd dirty everyone's dinner by dipping with your left hand, **you'd be equally foul-mannered to offer a left-handed handout.**

We forget that Jesus had a great sense of humor: “The way those trumpet-sounders are soiling their giving, they might as well be offering it with their left hand!”

**So, don't soil your giving by grabbing for significance.**

Keep that dirty grabber in the dark!

“... so that your giving may be in secret. **[For an audience of One]** Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” – Matthew 6:4 NIV

**With a trumpet sound to end all trumpet-sounders!**

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God ... – 1 Thessalonians 4:16a NIV

And, the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed, take your inheritance; because, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me.” And to those on the left, “Depart from me.” (Mat 25:34-41 paraphrased)

He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. – 1 Corinthians 4:5 NIV

**When the secret motives of men's hearts are exposed, your secret significance will be revealed.**

**And, God will praise you!**

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!” (Mat 25:21)

**And, He'll present you radiant and holy, without spot or wrinkle.** (Eph 5:27)

**Even though it won't affect your value.**

**Because, there's just a joy that comes from making a crumpled Bill crisp again.**

Or a crumpled Jill. Or Bob. Or Patty.

Or you.