

Dung

We have to come to a place where we learn to value and esteem our relationship with God over all things. We need to come to a place where our priority is the Lord and nothing else. This doesn't happen overnight.

As we walk with the Lord, we want to position ourselves and our hearts to go all the way for the Lord.

*Philippians 3:1-11 "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."***

- a) Paul counted all things loss and dung for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. All he cared about was winning Christ Jesus and his relationship with Him.

1. Value

- a) To value means to *“esteem, to magnify, and to reverence.”*
- b) What do you value more than other things?
 - i) We have to choose to do that. It will not happen accidentally.
 - ii) Whether you know it or not, you place value in everything in your life.
 - iii) You place importance on everything that comes into your life. We need to develop a different value system.
- c) Luke 14:26 *“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.”*
- d) Matthew 10:37 *“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”*
 - i) You either value what God says to you or people. His Word or something else. Taking offense is valuing one’s opinion of you more than God’s.
 - ii) Nothing ought to compete for the value placed on things of God. Not your mate, marriage, job, career, and so forth.

2. Jesus

Our Lord Jesus showed us how we count of things as dung.

- a) John 6:15 *“When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.”*
 - i) Had Jesus had been caught up in the things of the world, He would have desired to be king. However, he counted all things but dung. He put things in the right perspective.
- b) Hebrews 12:1-2 *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,*

and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- i) Holding to the things of this life could be a weight that could easily beset us from intimacy with God. Jesus endured the cross because he valued the things
- c) Philippians 2:5-8 *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*
 - i) Jesus valued His heavenly status as a loss just so that He could come and save us.
 - ii) How much more should we esteem all things as loss and dung for the excellency of the knowledge of Him?

3. David—One thing!

- a) Psalm 27:4 *“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”*
 - i) In order to desire one thing, you have to count all other things as dung. David’s desire was to seek after the Lord above all things. He did not do this perfectly, but he had this as his desire. If we do not have a goal, we will hit all the time.

4. Paul

- a) Philippians 1:21 *“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”* 23-24 *“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.”*
 - i) Many of us are so in love with things, this life, jobs, Ministries, and so forth. Paul reached a place where he did not count his life dear to himself.

- ii) If you have a hard time living without all these important things to you, you have not yet counted all things as dung.
 - iii) If something else is or will hinder the pursuit of your intimacy with God, you have not counted all things but dung.
- b) 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*
- i) The right and best perspective we can ever have is the eternal perspective.
 - Paul looked at life in the light of eternity. He was able to put things in the right perspective and not be carried away with the temporal.
 - ii) If the Lord asked you to give it all up, what will you do?

5. Moses

Hebrews 11:24-26 *“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”*

- a) One of the main reasons Moses was able to follow through with God’s call on his life was because **he valued the riches, goodies, and prestige of Egypt as dung.**
 - i) **He esteemed the suffering, affliction, and reproach of Christ greater than the riches and treasures of Egypt.**
- b) Moses had more respect for God than the things of this World.
 - i) **You will do whatever you value and respect the most.**
 - ii) People who have done exploits have given up everything.
- c) **Our choices reflect what we value and respect.** We need to come to a place of counting all things as dung compared to seeking the Lord, intimacy, and relationship with God.

Rich Kanyal