# Connect Study—What Matters Most

**Matt 13:44-46**

In Matt 13:44-46, these men saw the value of the kingdom of God and sold everything they had for they considered it priceless. The question is “what do we value?”

Successful people have learned to master the skill of selection—knowing what’s important and what’s not important. The Apostle Paul was laser-focused— “this one thing I do…”

What we select or where we choose to spend our money, time or resources on certain things exhibits our values. Our values affect our stress level and success but also our salvation. It is said that unclear values cause confusion, conflicting values cause tension, false values cause deception and wrong values cause dysfunction.

We need to ask ourselves four questions in regards to our values.

The first one is who is going to be my authority and where am I going to get my values?

There are essentially three options: **The first option is myself.** Jer 17:9 tells us however that our hearts are deceitful above all things. Majority of studies on the brain tell us that we get it wrong more often than we get it right in terms of how we perceive things. **The second source of values is the world.** This is seen in I Jn 2:14-15. The world values looking good (appearance), feeling good (pleasures) and having all the goods (materialism). **The third and ultimate sources is God’s word.** Jn 8:31-32 tells us that the truth is what set us free. For example in terms of appearance, the Bible tells us that God looks at the heart and not the appearance. In terms of pleasures, the word of God says we can have the kicks but we will also have the kickbacks too.

The second question is what is going to last the longest? Often people experience a wake-up call to evaluate what is truly important in life when they are faced with a life threatening situation or experience a great loss.

The third question is “will I choose what is easy or what’s best”? One of the greatest source of stress is when our lifestyle is incongruent with our values.

The fourth question is “is it worth the price?” Matt 16:26 says “what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?”

Discussion Questions:

1. How much are we influenced by the values of the world—looking good, feeling good and having all the goods? Look at the way you spend your money, time and resources, how much of that is directed towards these three values?

(note: it’s not wrong to want these things as long as they do not take priority over the things of God)

1. What are the top four things that you value? Is your lifestyle congruent (matching up to) with your values e.g. for example if you value prayer, do you have a consistent devotional life, if you value family, do you set aside quality time with your kids on a daily or weekly basis?
2. Have you or someone you know experienced a wake-up call due to sickness or loss, how has that experience affected your/his/her values?
3. Is bringing people to Christ high on your list of values? How has your lifestyle reflected that?