

Just a Thought ...

Do we have value after we make a mistake? Maybe, I never had any value. The Bible says we are all sinners. How could a sinner have any value? Remember the Bible story about the prodigal son. He lived on a farm in Israel somewhere; he had a father and a brother; it looked like the normal honorable Jewish family doing all the right things. The prodigal (the younger son) hated it; he wanted out. He dreamed his father would die so he could get his inheritance. He demanded his money and then he left; he went faraway (the farther away the better). Yea, he hurt his dad; yes, he hurt his older brother. He didn't care - just to get away. "I'm sick of taking orders; I hate the boring routine." He had been planning this a long time; he finally got his way.

Did he enjoy getting drunk and making a fool of himself? Did he really get his jollies shacking up with women he did not know? Didn't he know that they weren't his friends; that they just wanted his money? How could he take his father's hard-earned money & drag it down the back alley?

He ended up with no friends, no home, no money, no food. No one wanted him anymore; he was a worthless loser. Where would he go? His family did not want him either.

Imagine you found a real \$100 bill in the street, all wet, stained, ripped up and faded. The next day you took it to the bank and asked the bank teller if you could replace it. Unbelievably, the teller would open his money drawer & hand you a new \$100 bill. That messed-up bill had lost no value.

Help from the Bible ...

- a. Genesis 1:27 - "So God _____ man in His own _____; in the _____ of God He created him; _____ & _____."
- b. 1 Samuel 16:7 - "For the Lord does not _____ as man sees; for man looks at the _____ appearance, but the Lord looks at the _____."
- c. Psalm 139:13-14 - "For You _____ my inward parts; You _____ me in my mother's _____. I will praise You, for I am fearfully & _____."
- d. Isaiah 49:15-16 - "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they could forget. Yet, I God, will not _____ you. Look. I have _____ you on the _____ of My hands;"
- e. Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are His _____, _____ in Christ Jesus for _____,"
- f. Luke 12:24 - "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more _____ are you than the birds."
- g. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the thoughts I think about you, says the Lord, thoughts of _____ & not of _____, to give you a _____ and a _____."