

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Be the reason someone smiles today. —Anon.

We're going to play an imagination game. Imagine that I'm holding a \$100 bill. You can see it plainly. It has Benjamin Franklin's likeness on it. So, if I offered you this \$100, would you take it? You might think I'm kidding, or that there's some sort of trick I am playing on you.

But no, I'm not playing a trick and so you take it. You are now richer by a hundred dollars than you were moments ago.

Now imagine something else. Imagine that I crumple up that nice \$100 bill and crush it into a little wad. Would you still want it? Sure, you would.

Okay, imagine that I am now throwing the wadded bill to the ground and stomping on it with my foot. Would you still take the \$100 even when it's been beaten and bruised, crushed and crumbled, abased and abused. Would you still take it?

Yes, indeed! Of course you would!

Why? Because no matter how wrinkled and bent, that \$100 bill is still worth one hundred dollars.

Do you see where I'm going with this?

You and I are that \$100 bill. Doesn't matter how weak and wrinkled or how worn and torn we are. In the sight of God, and to those who love us, we're worth just as much as ever! In fact, we have immeasurable, infinite value. So, do not despair!

The apostle Paul once wrote about his rough times: "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). He had been knocked down, but not knocked out. He was convinced that nothing could separate him from the love of Christ (see Romans 8:38-39).

Let us be grateful that our value as human beings does not rest upon our achievements or our looks or our health or our education. It rests instead upon the fact that we're made in the image of God.

You are made in God's image.

You are of infinite worth to God and those who love you.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Dear God, it is thrilling to consider that I am made in your image; that there is something of the divine likeness in me. May I live today in a way that honors that image. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Monday: 2 Chronicles 23-25

Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 26-29

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 30-32

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 33-36

Friday: Ezekiel 1-3

Saturday: Psalm 103-105

WORD JUMBLE

Directions: Cross out the answer to each definition. Write the remaining words on the lines below to discover this well-known saying of Jesus.
One clue is not used.

1. Expression of remorse	A	P	O	L	O	G	Y	T	H	E
2. Terror	L	I	F	E	H	O	R	R	O	R
3. Warrior	A	N	D	S	O	L	D	I	E	R
4. Article of clothing	G	A	R	M	E	N	T	T	H	E
5. Equine	N	O	O	N	E	H	O	R	S	E
6. Holds water	W	A	Y	C	I	S	T	E	R	N
7. Australian animal	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	M	E
8. To decide	I	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	E
9. Document of an arrest	W	A	R	R	A	N	T	W	A	Y
10. Music genre	E	X	C	E	P	T	J	A	Z	Z
11. Computer screen	M	O	N	I	T	O	R	A	N	D
12. Sarcasm	C	O	M	E	S	I	R	O	N	Y
13. Disciple	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	T	H	E
14. Domestic pet	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	C	A	T
15. Not true	F	A	L	S	E	T	R	U	T	H
16. Abode	T	O	T	H	E	H	O	U	S	E
17. Used to tie things	F	A	T	H	E	R	R	O	P	E
18. Used to open a door	D	O	O	R	K	N	O	B	A	M

8. _____ 18. _____ 1. _____ 9. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 15. _____

11. _____ 13. _____ 2. _____ 5. _____ 12. _____ 16. _____

17. _____ 10. _____ 14. _____ 7. _____

