

This Week's Message: Precious
By Ellie Lingner

Precious: adj. 1. of great price or value; costly 2. of great desirability; held in high esteem (precious rights) 3. beloved; dear 4. very fastidious, over-refined or affected, as in behavior, language, etc.

Quick...without thinking...what is your most precious possession at this moment? Interesting question. Interesting answers. What does your answer reveal to you?

What you value and think of as precious tells a lot about who you are. Was it an expensive thing? Was it something sentimental or practical? Or was it an emotional connection? Was it something totally abstract such as good health, freedom or virtue?

What is precious to you has and will change over time, but thinking about the question always is a good barometer for where you are in life and what your values are. If someone had asked you that question when you were in middle school, can you imagine what your answer might have been then? If you ask that person who is struggling to raise a family, can you guess what the answer will probably be? Or if you ask an elderly person, the question takes on a whole new dimension. Can you see the question from those different perspectives?

When you discover what truly is most precious to you, cherish and protect it. Give gratitude for it. Whatever it is, it could disappear tomorrow.

Week's Quotes:

"True friends are like diamonds, precious and rare. False friends are like leaves, found everywhere."

"If time is precious, no book that will not improve by repeated reading deserves to be read at all." Thomas Carlyle, Scottish historian and essayist, leading figure in the Victorian era. 1795-1881.

"A good name is better than precious ointment." Ecclesiastes 7:1.

"Our emotional symptoms are precious sources of life and individuality." Thomas More, English humanist, statesman and Chancellor of England . 1477-1535.

"Happiness always looks small while you hold it in your hands, but let it go, and you learn at once how big and precious it is." Maxim Gorky, Russian novelist and playwright. 1868-1936.

"Ordinary riches can be stolen, real riches cannot. In your soul are infinitely precious things that cannot be taken from you." Oscar Wilde, Irish poet novelist, dramatist and critic. 1854-1900.

“If time be of all things the most precious, wasting time must be the greatest prodigality.” Benjamin Franklin, American statesman, scientist, philosopher, printer, writer and inventor. 1706-1790.

“If a person gives you his time, he can give you no more precious gift.” Frank Tyger.