

Series: Parables of Jesus  
Lesson: 12  
Author: John Harrison



### “Who Knows What it’s Worth?”

#### Scenario 1

A junior at a prestigious university has been struggling over her sense of self-worth. A religious group on campus makes contact with her and starts a Bible study. During this period she realizes that she wants to become a Christian but she is afraid that the group will expect more of her time if she does so. She wants to become a Christian but she doesn’t want to jeopardize her scholarships and grades. Another group that is less demanding baptizes her and she continues her studies and comes to that group’s activities when she can.

#### Scenario 2

A man in his early thirties is beginning to make a successful career in real estate. However he knows that he is missing something in his life that his success cannot provide. He begins attending a church and finds a group of people who are thrilled to see him and show God’s love for him. His skills at meeting people and winning their confidence convince him that he should go into preaching. He quits the real estate business and enters a preacher training school. After his studies and several years of preaching, he realizes that he made the right decision. He feels loved and appreciated and feels good that he is doing something that really matters.

#### Scenario 3

A teenager lives in a home with an abusive father. Every night it is tense as he wonders if his father will come home drunk and beat him up. Friends of his at school know that things are not good for him at home but they don’t know the full story. They invite him to come to church with him, which he gladly is willing to do just to get out of the house. But over time the message of God’s grace begins to take effect on him and he begins to look at God as a Father who he never had. But he has a problem. If he decides to become a Christian, his father will be enraged and probably will beat him again. He sees no way of resolving this conflict but decides that God’s love constrains him to make a commitment to become a Christian. After his conversion he is glad he made the decision but goes home frightened and nervous.