***February 10, 2019***

***Today’s Lesson: Visible Viable Values***

**From Mike:**

Several years ago, someone broke into our house and stole my little jewelry box. They didn’t see Donna’s jewelry cabinet, so they took my MUCH smaller box that I got as a High School graduation present many years ago. It had some valuables in it, like my wedding ring, watches, a gold cross necklace and some other things, but the thing I miss most (other than my wedding ring, of course) was my High School graduation ring. It was gold with a golden sapphire stone. It was pretty and in mint condition—because I took good care of it. Like my wedding ring, I had quit wearing it because it didn’t fit my larger fingers anymore. I still loved it for all the memories it represented and reminded me of. I would have paid whatever they got at some pawn store, just to get it back. Why? Because it was more valuable to me for sentimental reasons than the gold that it was made of.

 What determines value? It’s the importance we place on something. If it means a lot to us—it’s valuable to us. This morning we are going to talk about values that we live by. We have life values because it’s important for us to live a certain way. We may not even know exactly what those values are, but we live by them, both individually and as a family.

 As a family of God, we have values that He calls on us to live by. We didn’t make them up or copy them from business or culture. They are important (or valuable) to God, so they must be important to us. What are our values and what does it mean that we live by them? How are we doing as far as growing in these values? Do we have any idea if we’re being true to those values? These are some of the questions we will explore today. Are you ready to ask yourself some tough questions about your values?

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