

# **PEOPLE ARE YOUR BEST INVESTMENTS!**

1 John 4 <sup>19</sup> ***We love because God first loved us.*** ERV

Matthew 13 <sup>44</sup> “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a ***treasure*** that a man discovered ***hidden*** in a field. In his ***excitement, he hid it again*** and ***sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.*** <sup>45</sup> “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for ***choice pearls.*** <sup>46</sup> When he discovered ***a pearl of GREAT VALUE, he sold everything he owned*** and ***bought it!*** NLT

**“YOU KNOW THE WORTH OF SOMETHING BASED ON THE PRICE THAT WAS PAID FOR IT BY AN EXPERT WHO KNOWS THE VALUE OF IT!”**

1 Corinthians 7 <sup>23</sup> You have been redeemed, at ***tremendous cost***... Phillips

1 Peter 1 <sup>18</sup> ...The ransom God paid was ***not mere gold or silver***... <sup>19</sup> But he paid for you with ***the precious lifeblood of Christ***... TLB

## **FOUR WAYS JESUS INVESTED IN PEOPLE**

### **#1 JESUS INVESTED IN PEOPLE AS A SERVANT**

Matthew 20 <sup>28</sup> ***Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve...***

John 13 <sup>1</sup>...From beginning to end, ***Jesus’ days were marked by His love for His people***...<sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that He...was going away to God, <sup>4</sup> stood up from dinner and removed His outer garments. He then wrapped Himself in a towel, <sup>5</sup> poured water in a basin, and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with His towel...<sup>12</sup> After washing their feet and picking up His garments, He reclined at the table again. “Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call Me Teacher and Lord, and truly, that is who I am. <sup>14</sup> So ***if your Lord and Teacher washes your feet, then you should wash one another’s feet.*** <sup>15</sup> I am your example; keep doing what I do. <sup>16</sup> I tell you the truth: a ***servant*** is not greater than the master...<sup>17</sup> If you know these things, and if you put them into practice, you will find happiness...<sup>33</sup> My children, My time here is brief...<sup>34</sup> So I give you a ***new command: Love each other deeply and fully. Remember the ways that I have loved you, and demonstrate your love for others in those same ways.*** <sup>35</sup> Everyone will know you as My followers ***if you demonstrate your love to others.*** VOICE

Philippians 2 <sup>1-4</sup> If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if His love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— then do me a favor... ***love each other...Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead.*** Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.<sup>5-8</sup> Think of yourselves the way Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but... He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, ***He lived a selfless, obedient life*** and then died a selfless, obedient death... MSG

## #2 JESUS INVESTED IN PEOPLE AS A GODLY EXAMPLE

John 13 <sup>15</sup> *I have given you an example*, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ESV

1 Timothy 4 <sup>12</sup> You are young, but...*be an example* to *show the believers how they should live*. Show them by *what you say*, by the *way you live, by your love, by your faith*, and *by your pure life*. ERV

1 Timothy 4 <sup>12-16</sup> *See that people look up to you because you are an example* ...Keep a critical eye both upon your own life and on the teaching you give, and...you will *not only save your own soul but the souls of many...* Phillips

## #3 JESUS INVESTED IN PEOPLE FOR THE LONG RUN... HE WAS LOYAL, COMMITTED, AND FORGIVING!

Ephesians 4 <sup>32</sup> Be kind, compassionate, and *forgiving to each other*, in the *same way* God forgave you *in Christ*. NLT

Hebrews 13 <sup>5</sup> *God Himself has said*, I will not in any way fail you *nor* give you up *nor* leave you without support. *I will not, I will not, I will not* in any degree leave you helpless *nor forsake* *nor* let you down...*Assuredly not!* AMP

## #4 JESUS INVESTED IN PEOPLE THROUGH THE MESSAGE OF GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE!

John 3 <sup>16</sup> *God loved the PEOPLE of this world so much* that he gave his only Son, so that *everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life...* <sup>17</sup> God did **NOT** send his Son into the world to condemn its **PEOPLE**. He sent him to save them! CEV

2 Cor 5 <sup>13</sup> If we are *crazy*, it is for God...<sup>14</sup> The **LOVE** of Christ controls us, because...<sup>18</sup>...*God gave us the work of bringing PEOPLE into peace with him*. <sup>19</sup>...God did **not hold people guilty for their sins**. And he gave us this *message of peace* to tell *people*.<sup>20</sup> So we have been sent to speak for Christ...*God is calling to PEOPLE through us*. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God. <sup>21</sup> Christ had no sin, but God *made him become sin* so that *in Christ we could be right with God*. ERV

**IDEA STARTERS FOR INVESTING IN PEOPLE:** START A DAILY FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME; VOLUNTEER FOR ONE OF OUR DOZENS OF MINISTRIES: EVANGELISM, CHILDREN'S OR YOUTH MINISTRY, WHIZ KIDS, INTERCESSORS, ETC; START A BIBLE STUDY OR PRAYER GROUP AT YOUR WORK; OR... CONTINUE INVESTING IN PEOPLE IN THE WAYS YOU ALREADY DO!  
**ASK GOD HOW HE WANTS YOU TO INVEST MORE IN PEOPLE.**

**I BELIEVE GOD IS LEADING ME TO INVEST MORE IN PEOPLE IN THESE WAYS:**

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