

Priceless Value

Good morning teachers and students,

I'll begin my speech with a story.

Once upon a time, a boy called John was studying in Mr. Smith's class. John was always timid. He lacked motivation to do well in his studies because he always thought that he was good-for-nothing.

One day, Mr. Smith, John's class teacher, gave John a gemstone (a stone used in jewelry) and said, "Bring this stone to the vegetable market in Shamshuipo and try to sell it there. But, no matter how much money the people may offer you, do not sell it ."

The next day, John woke up early in the morning and brought his stone to the market. He placed his stone on the ground and stood by it. While thousands of people passed by John, only a few of them had noticed his stone. The first passer-by offered John \$100 in order to buy his stone, but John refused to sell it. People passed by John one after the other and they offered him higher and higher prices in order to buy the stone. But their efforts were in vain. Though the price of the stone had risen to \$1000, John insisted on not selling it.

After John had reported his experience to his teacher, Mr. Smith told him to sell the stone at the jewelry market in Yaumatei the following day. This time, John placed his stone on a small table decorated by a black cloth. By the end of the office hour, 100 passers-by had shown their interest in buying John's stone and the highest offer was \$10,000. However, John still insisted on not selling his stone.

When Mr. Smith heard of John's latest experience, he told him to sell the stone at a grand department store in Tsimshatsui the following day. John did what his teacher had told him. This time, John hired a small counter in the department store and he put his stone in a beautiful glazed box. The stone in the box attracted 1000 customers. They had shown their interest in buying John's stone and the highest offer was \$100,000. However, John still insisted on not selling his stone.

Later, people began to spread John's story among themselves and said to each other that John's stone was rare among all precious stones in the world.

Can you explain why the value of John's stone kept on rising ?

Let me tell you my opinion.

John treasured his stone. With John's thoughtful decoration, his stone looked like a rare precious stone. Moreover, because of his persistence not to sell the stone, people strongly believed that his stone must be the most valuable one in the world. People also recognized that its value must be far above any price.

Now, let me ask you 2 questions :

(1) What do you have today?

(2) What do you need today?

Today, you are a unique being. You have unusual potential. Treasure your unique being as John treasured his stone. Equip yourself by learning and doing. You will be able to do well in your studies and other responsibilities. Develop your unusual potential. You will be able to do great things with excellent results. You will then be respected by other people as you respect yourself.

Today, you need to grow. The value of John's stone increased when John brought it to the grand department store. Likewise, the value of your life will increase if you receive Jesus as your guidance. Open your heart and receive Jesus. He will lead you to walk in the path of light. Your life will be meaningful and your value will be priceless. You will then be valued by other people as Jesus values you.

In order to help you remember today's message, I would like to present to you a few lines of verse :

Seeking the Holy One (Jesus),

We are perfection-bound;

Using our unusual potential,

We can fly and stand on higher ground.

May God bless you. Thank you.