

P560

Grace Notes Program
THEME: You are precious

INTRO: In Biblical times, dreams often exposed the truth about current events or the future. Nowadays, we have God's Word, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit to do that, so dreams are not typically so meaningful. Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek will relay a dream that reinforced the importance of a very special occasion in her life.
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I don't know about you, but I don't dream very often, or at least I don't remember my dreams. There've been occasions, though, when my dream is so real, I actually wake up to see if it's true. I've found that emotional dreams often reveal how deeply I feel about something - like the one I had the other night. But before I tell you about it, let me regress a bit to my childhood.

I was a tomboy - loved to climb trees and play baseball with the boys, though I still liked my dolls. When I was 10, I started thinking more about my appearance and conduct. My grandma was very special to me. She'd often have me stay over night and fix my favorite foods. We'd sing together and sew our 'creations'. One day she invited me to go to a bazaar with her and her friends. I was elated that she'd trust me to behave at such an event. I stood up straight and walked tall like my mom had told me to do. I tried to be quiet like the big ladies. There were lots of booths there - some with games and others where you could buy things. Grandma and I went over to one booth and there, sitting on a shelf, was an adorable stuffed octopus. It was made from beige yarn, had eight braided tentacles and a bushy crop of cut yarn on top of its head. Its face was sown on with blue yarn, which was also used to tie each braid. I'd never seen anything like it. Grandma knew I was in love with it (after many hints) so she bought it for me. I called him 'Oscar the octopus'. We continued on, looking at crafts and snacking on specialty foods, enjoying the festivities and each other's company. I held in my arms a memento of this wonderful occasion and in my heart a memory of a time when grandma treated me as if I were **PRECIOUS**.

I can't fully explain why I felt so special that day, except to say that I felt I didn't deserve such love. Even now, Oscar sits on my dresser and goes with me on every trip - **AND** I have grandchildren of my own. He is a bit worn, though, from all the hugs.

The other night I dreamed a man came into my house and found Oscar. He said he'd pay me up to a million dollars for him. I could feel my heart fiercely beating at the thought of losing this treasure. I told him there was no amount of money I would take for him. Then I awoke. The emotion was very strong. I believe that if this offer were made when I was awake, I wouldn't take it either. Oscar is a constant reminder of a time when I felt PRECIOUS.

Have you ever felt precious? Do you have a reminder or a memory of it? I hope you do, but whether you do or don't, I want to tell you - you are PRECIOUS to God. In Psalm 139:17-18a, the Psalmist writes...

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.

Now that's a lot of thoughts! I don't know anyone who thinks about us that much.

In the same psalm, the Psalmist says God knows all our thoughts and is familiar with all our ways. He knows what we're going to say before we say it. He knows when we sit or rise. In fact, He's so close to us that if we could see Him, we might feel hemmed in. We can't hide from Him or go anywhere without Him. His hand guides and holds us fast.

God knows us better than we know ourselves and loves us anyway. Would your best friend still love you if he/she really knew all your thoughts and ways?

Verses 13-16 of this Psalm touch me in a special way. Let's read them as written...

..You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

God knows and loves us, and proved it by sending His ONLY BEGOTTEN Son, Jesus, His precious treasure, to die on a cross to pay the penalty for our sin so we could have fellowship with Him.

1 Pet. 1: 18-19 says...

..you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the PRECIOUS blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

We are not worthy to be loved this way. We are undeserving of this wonderful, merciful Savior's sacrifice.

**** WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR *****

It cost Christ more than a million dollars to buy each of us out of our sin – it cost Him his life. The cross of Calvary is a constant reminder of the suffering that took place just so He could call us His own. It is empty because He is alive and can therefore, be our closest and dearest Friend.

How precious is He to you - enough to stand up for him when others criticize and jeer - enough to trust him with you life - enough to live in obedience to His commands so you achieve all that He planned for you to do before you breathed your first breath?

Psalm 119:72 reads...

The law (or teaching or instruction) from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

What do you treasure? Your family, your friends, your job, your material possessions, yourself? Matthew 6:19-24 says...

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Is your heart full of the love of Christ – so full that you can't help but let others know about the precious gift of salvation you've received? If you've accepted Christ, your frail heart contains a treasure that needs to be given away so others can know they, too, are loved by God and enter His Kingdom.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians. 4-6...

... God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

There is nothing or no one that can compare to our Lord Jesus, Christ. I trust you have found that to be true in your life. He is not a memento, a keepsake or a souvenir. He is a real, precious loving Savior who thinks of you as PRECIOUS and wants you for His own.

**** MORE PRECIOUS THAN SILVER ****

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