

A WORD WITH YOU - By Ron Hutchcraft

10268 – “What Makes You Really Valuable”

John 17:15

May 20, 2026

They're just pieces of cardboard, but some of them are worth hundreds, even thousands of dollars. We call them baseball cards. Actually, our son got interested in them when he was a little guy, and pretty soon they became a pretty serious investment for him. He really knew how to, well like they say on Wall Street, buy low and sell high. Because he watched up-and-coming players, then he would get the rookie cards of some of those players who later became major stars, and there aren't many of those rookie cards out there. So they're rare and they're valuable. Lest we trivialize the baseball card business, I want you to realize that it helped pay a significant part of our son's way through college. I remember when he told me as a teenager, "Dad, I know my room is a mess, but there's one thing I take care of—my baseball cards." That's true! His valuable ones were neatly organized in these plastic folders in these carefully guarded notebooks. And the reason most of those cards were high value was very simple. You know. They were rare!

I'm Ron Hutchcraft and I want to have **A WORD WITH YOU** today about **“What Makes You Really Valuable.”**

If you're trying to do what's right in an environment where most everybody else is doing what's wrong, you get to kind of feeling lonely sometimes, right? And even weird? In fact, the people you work with, or play with, or go to school with may basically tell you that you're weird because you don't do the things they do. And, after a while, that can start to wear on you and even wear down your resistance. You get tired of being “weird.”

But if you're basically standing alone but standing for the right thing, you're not weird—you're rare. Ask any collector, whether it's baseball cards, or antiques, or stamps, or coins, whatever. What makes an item valuable is that they're aren't many of them. The less there are like them, the more valuable they become. So, if you're taking a stand, and you're doing things God's way, that's you--rare and valuable.

In His final hours before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed to His Father on behalf of all those who believed in Him at that time and all those who would believe in Him through the years. So, when you listen to a portion of that prayer in our word for today from the Word of God, remember Jesus is actually praying in advance down the years for you and me. John 17, beginning with verse 15, says of His followers, “My prayer is not that You take them out of the world, but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

“Sanctify them,” Jesus prayed. What that means is, “set them aside for special purposes. Keep them special. Keep them reserved for God’s purposes.” Jesus wanted to plant you right in the middle of a dark world because they needed a light there, and that’s you. So that means that, just like Him, you will take some abuse, some name-calling, and some rejection for your allegiance to Him. But not because there’s something wrong with you. No, there’s something very right with you!

The less virgins there are, the more valuable a virgin becomes. The less honest men and women there are, the more valuable an honest person becomes. The less people who say no to what’s dirty, what’s destructive, what’s negative, the more your worth increases. Maybe you’ve been tempted to cave in. You’ve got combat fatigue; there’s heavy pressure. Don’t do it. Not only is Jesus counting on you, but the very people who are pressuring you, desperately need for you to stand firm, or their only light goes out.

Because you’re Jesus’ personal representative in a dark place, in many ways you aren’t like everybody else. But you keep loving them unconditionally. You make them feel important; do the right thing without condemning them. And keep doing all of that, and you’re going to be, whether they admit it or not, one of the most valuable and important people in their life. Because people like you are rare and very, very valuable.

INT-10268(R)8313 "What Makes You Really Valuable" © 2026 Ronald P. Hutchcraft Permission to distribute this material via email, or individual copies, is automatically granted on the condition it will be used for non-commercial purposes and will not be sold. To reproduce "A Word With You" transcripts in any other format, including Internet websites, written permission is needed from Ron Hutchcraft.

If you would like to receive further information about this ministry, please contact us at:
www.hutchcraft.com or 1-877-741-1200