

going deeper



It's important to realize that stories offer more than one lesson to learn because there is almost always more than one thing going on. Each person in the narrative is living their own story and learning their own life lessons. What I like to do is:

1. Dig as deep as I can about what's going on in a passage. Today I focused on assigning price tags.
2. Next, I'll walk through each character in the story and ask, "Do they interact with this idea? If so, how?" This led to my 3 case studies.
3. Next, what can each person teach me about this idea?

You try it:

Re-read **II Kings chapter 5**. Are there other characters who are assigning price tags? What can they teach you? Are there other price tags I didn't touch on?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revenge | <input type="checkbox"/> Pride | <input type="checkbox"/> Greed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forgiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> Progress | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrity |

II Kings chapter 5:

Our inner _____ assign invisible price tags to things around us, and these price tags shape our daily _____ (5:1).

It's vital to know what things and people are actually _____ so we can make good decisions about them.

Two price tags: p _____ and p _____.

1. Case #1: The servant girl (5:2,3)

Her choice is between revenge and _____. Her _____ revealed her values.

Video: What were their choices? Where did they put the stickers?

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2. Case #2: Naaman (5:8-12)

Naaman's choice was between _____ and healing. Again, his choice revealed his values.

James 5:16: We choose pride over _____ all the time.

3. Case #3: Gehazi (5:19-22)

Gehazi's choice was between greed and _____.

He tries to create a _____ area, a third option. His choice revealed his values.

"_____ sins" don't change the essence of the decision or _____ what's at stake when we assign the price tags.

Matthew 16:26:

What if my values are all screwed up? Changing a value is never more than one _____ away.

Ask God to help you do one thing in each category that applies to you each week—as a disciple, a spouse, and / or a parent. Just think: Into one year, you’ll have made 52 investments in your relationship with God, 52 investments in your marriage, 52 investments in your kids.

—That’s a changed life!

FOR YOU

Sit down with God today and ask him this question: *Lord, is there an issue in my life where I’ve been mixing up the price tags? Where I’ve been choosing something petty over something priceless?* Talk to him about what comes to mind. Do something about it! You are one choice away from forging better values.

FOR COUPLES

Set up a time where you can reflect on these questions: *Is there an issue in our relationship where we’ve been mixing up the price tags? Where we’ve been choosing something petty over something priceless?* Chart a course together to begin putting the right priorities in action.

FOR PARENTS

Hardly a day goes by when parents don’t choose something petty over something priceless. It could be choosing to flake out in front of the TV instead of building something out of lego with your children, for example. This week, try to make at least one better decision for the sake of your children each day.

Parents of youth: As our kids grow up, it’s our job to help them realize what’s truly valuable so they can make mature and godly decisions. Ask God to show you one issue in your teen’s life where they seem to be mixing up the price tags, then book a time this week where you can talk to them about your struggles with “pricing” and your concerns about their choices recently.

FOR LIFE GROUPS

Follow through with your Life Group using these questions:

1. Briefly re-cap Sunday’s message. What stood out to you, and why?
2. Try reading II Kings chapter 5 yourselves, out loud. What do you notice from your own reading?
3. What other “price tag mixups” can you find? Or places where someone got it right?
4. What price tag mixups seem to be the hardest to resist in our society? Why do you think that is?
5. Is there a place in your life where you think you’ve been mixing up the price tags? Explain your situation to the group, and ask them for their input.
6. What do you think God is saying to you through this study? What will you do about it?