



**Bible Study**  
**April 29, 2020**

## **CHOP WOOD CARRY WATER**

**Chapter 8**  
**Where Do You Find Your Identity?**  
**Mark 8:36-37**

This chapter meets us where we are today. It asks the question—who would you be if everything you do was taken away from you? It causes us to really determine where our value comes from.

Because of COVID-19, many of us, if not most of us, have had to re-evaluate what is really important in our lives. Much of what we have been doing has been taken away. Each of us must answer the question—do I still have value? That is the lesson John had to learn in Chapter 8. Because of intense and over-extended practice, focusing on his goal, he tore the muscles in his shooting arm. He was disgusted and dejected when Akira told him it would take six to eight weeks to heal, because he had placed his identity in what he did, shooting. Without shooting, he had lost his identity. That is when Akira asked John the question that each of us must answer—who would you be if everything you do was taken away from you?

It is easy to feel like your value is greater when your team wins, when you make lots of money, or when you experience great success. But, what is equally amazing is that those are the same things that cause one to feel defeated and depressed when losses occur, when you

lose your job, or when it feels like you are failing at everything. Those are the things that lead to worry. Note how Jesus deals with worry—[Matthew 6:25-33](#).

## Principles

1. Your value is constant. It is priceless; it never goes up or down based off of results or your performance. Your value comes from who you are, not from what you do. You are more than what you do. You are infinitely priceless—[Ephesians 2:10](#). God never tells us why He loves us. He just loves us—[Isaiah 49:15](#), [Jeremiah 29:11](#), [Jeremiah 31:3](#), [Roman 5:8](#), [Ephesians 2:4-7](#).
2. When your identity gets wrapped up in what you do, it clouds every decision you make. That is when compromise and short cuts come in. That is when there is jealousy, envy, strife, hatred and unforgiveness. All those are traits of Satan—[Isaiah 14:12-15](#).
3. Find your identity in something that cannot be stripped away in a moment. Your value comes from who you are. Find out who God says you are. He feels the same about you always and unconditionally. You cannot do anything to make Him love you more or less—[Psalm 139:13-18](#), [Psalm 8:4-6](#), [Genesis 1:26-28](#).