

Bags of Gold

God treasures you! There are many things in life such as failures, faults, or mistakes that will cause you to feel worthless and invaluable – but you are not!

Some years ago, I dreamed that my dad came to see me and my siblings. (In reality, my dad had passed away the year before this dream.) Dad handed me a piece of typed paper of jotted notes he wanted me to read. I read only the first 3-4 lines when something caught my attention and I looked up, so I read no further. Dad had started handing me seven hand-sized, dark brown burlap bags tied with a draw string. Although I couldn't see inside, I knew that each bag was full of gold, and the sturdy burlap was needed to hold the weight of it. Then dad said, "I have to go," and he was instantly gone. Suddenly I was awakened from my sleep saying, "seven bags of gold," and I knew this is what had captured my attention and what had awakened me.

As I lay thinking about this dream, I knew these bags represented us seven children, and I recalled what I had previously read in dad's Living Will. Dad had stated that having his seven children was the best thing he had ever achieved in his life. Were we perfect? No. Did we do everything right? No. Many times, we failed to do what was right in our dad's eyes, our eyes, or even God's eyes. Yet our dad still believed that we were the best thing he had ever accomplished. Yes, we have experienced life's un-expectancies, made lots of mistakes, and have often felt unworthy or a failure – but that was not our dad's perspective or God's.

You are indeed like us. You are a bag of gold. To others you may not look like much, but you are priceless. To God, your worth far exceeds what your mind can think. He created the burlap sack that everyone sees, but it is only a cover-up for your protection and for the weight of gold that He has placed inside of you. He alone can get to the real gold. No one can borrow it. No one can steal it.

These golden gifts, talents, and treasures is what He uniquely chose for you. Maybe you haven't seen yours in a while, or not at all, because of all the dirt in life you've experienced, but it's there. Allowing God to clean and purify the gold within you will make you shine from the inside out. In Job 23:10, Job said, "*But God knows the way that I take: when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold*" (ESV). So today, know that your very own burlap sack is filled with all the good stuff from God. He alone knows your value. He alone knows your worth. He sees well beyond your imperfections! All you've got to do is let Him bring out the best in you.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for designing us to your own liking and for making us a unique treasure. Lord I know that you do not create junk! You never settle for less because you don't have to – you own it all! They are not junk. They are not worthless. They are not invaluable. Create in them a new mindset that their value is far beyond measure. Reveal to them how precious they are, and how they can shine like gold in your glory.

Release them from the pains of their past, and from the bondages that keep them from knowing who they are. I know that they may look as rough as burlap, but you see through that bag. They may feel worthless, but you see their value like pure gold. Let them see what you see. I pray that the mistakes of their past, their failures, their faults, or their inability, be covered by the presence of your pure love.

And just in case they are hearing these words and not feeling it, I pray that you will invade their insecurities and their inability to believe that they are lovable and valuable. You indeed love them with an everlasting love. And they are the treasures that you take joy in – but let them feel it! Let it be so in your precious name, Jesus! Amen!

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