

A MESSAGE ON YOUR GOD-GIVEN WORTH
**JESUS DEFINES AND
REDEEMS YOUR WORTH**

By George Foster



The event was held at a Brazilian fairground. I would speak to young people in an unusual venue: an auction ring normally used to sell cattle.

Arriving early I found a place to take in the scene. I imagined what it would be like on auction day. Farmers would fill the stands around the ring and the auctioneer would begin proceedings. An attendant would appear, bringing a neck-roped calf to walk around the edge, showing it to the crowd of farmers. Then the bidding would begin.

My imagination took me further. I saw the gate opening and the attendant coming in, but he was not showing a calf. He was displaying a young man about seventeen years of age. Tall, lean, muscular, the young man followed the attendant around the edge of the ring while farmers made comments about him.

Not accustomed to seeing a young man sold as if in the times of slavery, they asked each other, “How much is he worth?” I asked myself, “What is the value of a seventeen-year-old boy?” The answer would come once the bidding got under way.

The highest bid

At first the bids were low but as the auction progressed, the bids increased and many farmers dropped out. Finally only two men were bidding and a hush ruled in the crowd while the spectators waited to hear the final price.

After a period of silence, a voice spoke up, loud and clear. “I will make one final bid. *How much would he pay*, I wondered?

Again there was a silent pause until the bidder said, “To buy this young man, I offer my life! I will give my blood!”

Keep in mind that this was all going on in my imagination, yet it is exactly what has taken place in this world and each of us has been in the ring, whether we know it or not.

“For 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” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

If you ever wonder what your life is worth, consider the price that our Savior was willing to pay in order to redeem you—His life and His blood. You are of incalculable worth to Him.

Brazilian pastor, author and psychologist, Marcelo Aguiar, writes (and I translate), “At the cross we see that we are sinners—how could we ever exalt ourselves? We also see how much we are loved—how could we ever depreciate ourselves?”