



**The Measure of a Man
Moment of Manna
Leo Pete
February 14, 2010
www.pathwaywesleyan.com**

How many of you would be willing to step on a scale and let your weight be posted on that screen behind me for all to see? Probably none of you. I know I wouldn't. It doesn't matter if we're a lightweight or a heavyweight. If we're not the perfect weight, we don't want anyone to know. When I go to the doctor and know I'm going to get weighed, I'll wear extra clothing, a sweater or something, and maybe put a few rolls of quarters in my pockets so I'll weigh a little more. I've actually done that. And I can honestly say that I have clothes from my high school years that still fit me. They're every bit as baggy on me now as they were then. That's why you'll never see me in short sleeves. I'm skinny and I'm embarrassed by how I look.

We're preoccupied with physical appearance. Most of the time we make our decisions and judgments based on what we see. Whether it's personal appearance or the physical scene around us, we form our opinions based on how things look to us. That's why it's important to make a good first impression, and that's why it is said that clothes make the man. How we look will determine what people think of us. In our society we form our opinions of people based on how they look, how they speak, and how they act. The fashion industry tells us that it's much better to be a lightweight than a heavyweight, and we buy into that foolishness. Clothes don't make the man. Nor do tattoos, or piercings, or spiked hair. It's what's inside the package that matters. That's why God tells us that He always looks on the inside.

When we buy into that philosophy, we find ourselves wasting time in the pursuit of idle, worthless, meaningless objects. We begin to seek worldly riches, worldly popularity, worldly fame. We alter our appearance through surgery, or drugs, trying to become a part of the beautiful people. We throw away our time and effort, and talent, and money, seeking to change what we are to become what we think is something better. And after all that, we still die. We just die a little prettier.

Usually when people step on a scale, they want to weigh less. Not true with God's scale. You'll want to weigh more. God uses a different kind of scale that measures a different kind of weight. You'll want to have substance and depth and purpose to your life. Daniel stood before the wicked King Belshazzar and told him, "You have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up"(Daniel 5:27) Basically he was saying, "Belshazzar, you are a spiritual lightweight. You have done nothing with your life."

The Bible tells us that all believers will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. In speaking of this, Paul said in 1Cor 3:11-13, "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value." It's not so much about the bad things you did; it's more a question of what you

did with your life; the life God gave you. Did you accomplish anything? Did you impact anyone? Did you seek to glorify God with your life? Or did you spend it in the pursuit of nothingness?

Would I prefer to be heavier? Sure I would. Would I rather be more muscular? Of course I would. Then I thought, "Would my wife still have been attracted to me if I had looked different—more weight, more muscle? I don't know, but I can't imagine what my life would have been like without her; and I know I wouldn't want to find out.

Don't worry about what God has called someone else to do. Focus on what God has called YOU to do, because the key in that final day is not how much you did, but why you did it. God is far more interested in our faithfulness than in our success. It's not about did you manage to get rid of all your wrinkles. It's not about did you amass a fortune. It's not about how much stuff did you accumulate. It's about being content with who you are, and it's all about faithfulness. It's all about doing what God has set before you and doing it well, with all of your might. That is what you will be judged for in that final day. That's what will make you a spiritual heavyweight. That's what will make you the perfect weight on God's scale. In God's eyes it is our faithfulness that determines the measure of a man. And it is that faithfulness that makes us attractive to God. Would He still be attracted to me if I wasn't faithful? I don't know, but I can't imagine what my life would have been like without Him, and I know I wouldn't want to find out.