***June 23, 2019***

***Today’s Lesson: Dust to Diamonds***

**From Mike:**

I have always liked referring to spiritual growth as a journey. In fact, my personal approach to preaching to my own church family has always been “We are on a journey together.” What I present in any and every lesson is material I have learned and used to grow in Christ. I have never felt like my job was to “pull” members up to my level of spiritual maturity! Far from it! I have always felt like an unworthy seeker helping others who are seeking a deeper walk with God. When God allows me to learn something, I internalize it and apply it, and THEN I share it! I do not feel spiritually superior to anyone! That being said, I do feel like I have grown spiritually every year of our shared ministry with this wonderful family. I’ve had plenty of AHA! moments as God has guided and molded me, and I have shared every one of them with you. I have never stopped learning and growing.

 So—why say all that? In the words of our theme song in the play, we are all being changed from dust to diamonds by God. He loves us and paid for us to move from worthless old dust to becoming a valuable treasure in His eternal treasure chest! What I hope to do in this last lesson this morning is remind us all that we are **“in the process of becoming”** what God wants us to be. It is a journey, but it’s a never-ending journey! We are growing on a daily basis—if we are truly seeking Him! And it won’t end in this life.

 Remember our definition of grace from a couple years ago? Grace declares us as **Worthless VIP’s**! Our loving Father gives us all the tools we need to help each other grow, mature, and change into the image of Christ. I’m not there yet, but I am changing. I can tell a difference from the me of a few years ago.

 Do you feel the change? How is your spiritual journey going? Do you have a sense of God changing you from dust to a diamond? It’s all about us accepting His value of us! There yet?