**Worth**

**The average American family’s net worth dropped almost 40 percent, from $126.400 to $77,300 between 2007 and 2010, according to a recent study by the Federal Reserve. That translates into the loss of 18 years of savings and investment as a result of the financial crisis. *(CNNMoney.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 22, 2012)***

**Figures don’t lie, but they can distort. After all, is a professional athlete’s paycheck a good indication of what he’s really worth? *(John Drybred, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**For the first time in history, the average American family’s net worth now exceeds $100,000. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 13, 2006)***

**Bach’s Six Concertos for Orchestra – the Brandenburg Concertos – were written for the margrave of Brandenburg, a prince who loved music, concertos in particular. When the margrave died, the Brandenburg Concertos were said to be worth twenty-four groschen. Eight groschen were worth $1.50 in those days (1721), so the value for six of the most distinguished pieces in all of music was only $4.50. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 384)***

**The median white household has 22 times more wealth than the median black household – a gap that has doubled since 2005. The median black household saw a 60 percent decline in its net worth over five years, to just $4,955. (CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 6-13, 2012)**

**Men, if your mother-in-law ever calls you a worthless bum you can deny it and support your defense by scientific proof. Your body today is worth $5.60 in chemicals. In 1946, we averaged out 98 cents. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 4)***

**In 2010, members of Congress had a collective net worth of at least $2 billion, a 25 percent hike over 2008, and that does not even include home values. The 50 richest lawmakers account for 80 percent of the wealth, and the median net worth is about $513,000. *(Roll Call, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 18, 2011)***

**Of the 64 entries for individuals and families worth more than a billion, Forbes lists only nine whose wealth is based on inheritance--mainly the Rockefellers, Hunts, Paul Mellon, and G. P. Getty. Others had a leg up, but many started from scratch. *(Paul Craig Roberts, in Reader's Digest, August, 1995)***

**Your net worth to the world is usually determined by what remains after your bad habits are subtracted from your good ones. *(Benjamin Franklin)***

**Bill Gates’ net worth of roughly $37 billion is one of those numbers that defy easy comprehension, much like the age of the universe. And so there's a new national pastime: putting Mr. Gates's stratospheric wealth in down-to-earth terms. For example, spending $250,000 for a Lamborghini would cost Mr. Gates -- in terms of percentage of his wealth -- what a 63-cent purchase would set back the average American. And because of the value of his time at the office, were Gates to see a $100 bill lying on the sidewalk on his way to work, he would actually lose money spending the few seconds required to stop and pick it up*. (Lee Gomes, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**The respect of those you respect is worth more than the applause of the multitude. *(Arnold Glasow, author)***

**Nothing is worth more than this day. *(Goethe)***

**Man: “I love this hat! How much is it?” Sales lady: “It’s $500!” Man: “My entire head isn’t worth that!” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

**The basic chemicals in the human body are worth only a few dollars. However, a Yale biochemist, Harold J. Morowitz, says that you’re actually worth much more than that. He estimates that it would cost six million dollars to manufacture the intricate hormones, proteins and enzymes in your body. The task of fashioning these raw materials into human cells might cost six thousand trillion dollars. The cost of putting the cells together to create a human being is beyond comprehension. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 63)***

**If you know your true worth, you do not need anyone else to confirm it. If you do not recognize your value, you will not gain it by getting others to approve. *(Alan Cohen)***

**I could make a better living, if they'd only pay me more than they think I'm worth. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**In my Real Wealth seminars, I walk among the participants and randomly ask several of them how much money they made last year. The room grows incredibly quiet. The tension in the air becomes so thick that many people actually stop breathing. After several people haltingly answer my question, I tell them to notice how they feel. I tell them to breathe again. Then I ask, “Why is it such a big deal how much money you or someone else made last year?” The answer is that we mistake our own worth as human beings for our net worth as human beings. The two are not really related. Yet, when we confuse the two we become very defensive and uptight. It makes learning much more difficult. *(Jonathan Robinson)***

**In the past year, the cumulative net worth of the Forbes 400 list – the 400 wealthiest Americans – rose by $200 billion. A fortune of $1.1 billion was necessary to make the list. Last year, the median U.S. household income, adjusted for inflation, dropped by 1.5 percent, to $50,054. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 5, 2012)***

**Clean one dollar bills run $486 to the pound. So, how much money would you have if you were worth your weight in same? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Poachers kill hundreds of endangered African rhinoceroses a year for their horns, which are prized in Asia as a (bogus) fever reducer, cancer cure, and hangover remedy. A kilogram of rhino horn – made of keratin, just like fingernails – sells for about $60,000, making it far more valuable than gold. *(CSMonitor.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 27, 2013)***

**In 1930, the mighty Yankee, Babe Ruth, was offered $80,000 a year. Some folks objected, pointing out that President Hoover made only $75,000. Said the Babe, apparently unperturbed. “I had a better year.” *(Herm Albright, in Beech Grove, Indiana, Perry Township Weekly)***

**It was a hot day and we had been holding a yard sale. I stretched out in a lounge chair and unexpectedly dozed off. When I woke up, I heard people laughing and found out that my wife had placed a big sign at my feet while I slept. It read: “Make an Offer.” *(John Locke, in Reader’s Digest)***

**One suggestion with a spark of truth is worth a hundred repetitions of sound platitudes. *(Liu Binyan, in A Higher Kind of Loyalty: A Memoir by China’s Foremost Journalist)***

**Worths of six wealthy people vs. foreign national budgets:**

**Bill Gates -- worth equal to Israel’s national budget;**

**Walton family -- equal to Saudi Arabia's national budget;**

**Warren Buffett -- equal to Iraq’s national budget;**

**Mars family -- equal to Kuwait’s national budget;**

**and Michael Dell -- equal to Hungary’s national budget. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**$319,706,250: Estimated value of the White House if it were up for sale on the open market, according to real estate site Zillow. *(Time magazine, August 19, 2013)***

**The word “worship” comes from an old English word meaning “worth”; thus, it indicates the “courtesy or reverence paid to worth.” What is it you value more than anything else in the world? Whatever you value supremely is your god, speaking functionally. *(Fred Cloud, in Dethrone Your Modern Idols)***

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