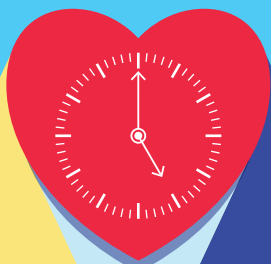


# ***Sermon Journal***

**JUST  
A DAY?**



September 9–October 13

**The Three-Mile-Per-Hour God**



October 14–October 20



October 21–November 24

**Asbury**  
United Methodist Church



# **Just a Day?**

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# **The Three-Mile-Per-Hour God**

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# **Get to Give**

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# Asbury's Vision Statement:

**Developing all generations for significant lives in Christ.**

This defines our specific and unique calling.

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## Asbury's Marks:

**Worship and obey Christ**

**Learn and live out Scripture**

**Influence and invite others to follow Christ**

**Steward time, skills and resources**

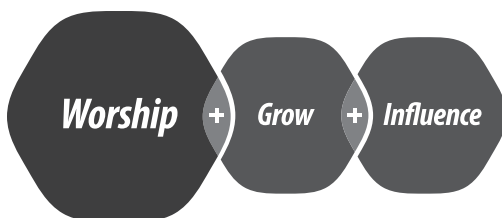
**United with the Body of Christ**

These are outward signs of spiritual growth for a Christ-follower at Asbury.

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## Asbury's Map

Worship +2. This is what we want people to do to connect at Asbury.



# Prayer and Priority List

- Every Sunday, come to worship, grow and influence.
- Every Sunday, communion and prayer are available at 9:00 am in Mason Chapel.
- Every Monday, Celebrate Recovery, Celebration Station and the Landing meet.

## September

- Sun, 9.6 Communion in all services  
 Mon, 9.7 Labor Day, Asbury closed (Celebrate Recovery will meet)  
 Sun, 9.13 "Just a Day?" sermon series begins  
 Day of Service (replaces 2nd Saturday this month)  
 Sun, 9.20 3rd grade Bible presentations in all services  
 Joining Asbury luncheon, 12:15–2:00 pm, Parlor  
 New member Sunday

## October

- Sun, 10.4 Communion in all services  
 Sat, 10.10 2nd Saturday, serving the community 8:15 am–noonish  
 Sun, 10.11 "The Three-Mile-Per-Hour God"  
 Special Guest: Dr. Timothy Tennent, President of Asbury Theological Seminary  
 Joining Asbury luncheon, 12:15–2:00 pm, Parlor  
 New member Sunday  
 Sun, 10.25 "Get to Give" sermon series begins

## November

- Sun, 11.1 Communion in all services  
 Sun, 11.8 Joining Asbury luncheon, 12:15–2:00 pm, Parlor  
 New member Sunday  
 Sat, 11.14 2nd Saturday, serving the community 8:15 am–noonish  
 Sun, 11.22 Adopt a Christmas Child, gift tag pick-up  
 Mon, 11.23 Asbury hosting All-City Thanksgiving service  
 Sun, 11.29 Advent begins

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# Asbury's Day of Service

We would love to have you join us for Asbury's 5th annual Day of Service on Sunday, September 13, from 12:00–5:00 pm. We will take the church into the Tulsa community by helping with painting, moving furniture, packing care boxes, neighborhood cleanup and much more. All logistics will be taken care of; all that is needed is a willing heart. Everyone is invited to participate in this intergenerational event; age doesn't matter because there are a variety of jobs to choose from. We especially encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to join us. This is a great opportunity to honor Jesus by serving others.

Go to **[www.asburytulsa.org](http://www.asburytulsa.org)** for more information or to sign up.

## 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

On this very special Sunday, September 20, all children in the 3rd grade will receive their own copy of the Word of God. This annual event is a great stepping stone of immense significance in the life of God's children. The presentation will take place during all worship services. The 3rd graders and their parents will come forward in the service for the Bible presentations. You are then invited to attend a reception in their honor in the Asbury Gym at either 10:30 am or 12:00 pm.

Call or email Shanon at **918.392.1170** or **[sbrown@asburytulsa.org](mailto:sbrown@asburytulsa.org)** for more information.

## Bible Explorers

Hey 3rd graders, do you want to be a Certified Bible Explorer? Parents, do you want to spend some time in the Word with your child? In this class, designed for the 3rd grader and an adult (parent), you will learn how the Bible was written, discover how it is organized, and see how to use it. We will meet for two Sunday afternoons, September 20 and 27, from 3:00–5:00 pm. If you did not come to the Bible presentation, we will have a Bible for you. Register online at **[myasburytulsa.org](http://myasburytulsa.org)**.

For more information contact Shanon at **918.392.1170** or **[sbrown@asburytulsa.org](mailto:sbrown@asburytulsa.org)**.

# How to Use the Journal

Congratulations on your decision to engage the Word of God on a daily basis! You have chosen the best approach to spiritual growth available.

Pastor Tom developed the journal several years ago to offer a structured daily reading plan because he wants people learning how to feed themselves spiritually. He places tremendous value on personal study and exposure to the whole Bible. There are many reading plans available, but he thought it best to provide one connected to the sermon series.

Journaling is typically a personal or “inward” discipline. How you relate to the Lord depends largely on your personality and the nature of your relationship. Some may prefer a more academic approach of word-study and cross-references while others may carry on intimate dialogues with Jesus using the Scripture as a springboard for conversation. However you approach journaling is OK.

While journaling is an inward discipline, the journal itself can be used as a guide for group discussion or family devotionals. Think of it as a tool for spiritual growth. Asbury puts time and expense into creating these because it is one of the best ways we can help develop all generations for significant lives in Christ.

To begin, you will need a Bible you can understand; the New International Version is a safe bet and the version our pastors use for preaching. The New Living Translation is a little more “user-friendly” for beginners.

1. Pray first. Ask for wisdom and understanding and for the Lord to speak to you through the text.
2. Read the scripture referenced at the top of the page. If you have trouble locating passages, use your Bible’s table of contents. References are always listed in this order: book, chapter, verse(s).
3. Respond to the scripture text by answering these three questions in your own words: What does the passage say? What does the passage say to me? How can I apply it to my life? (These guiding questions may be used every day.)
4. The margin notes offer insight to the text, and the questions are there for group discussion or personal application. You may use the blank lines to write or “process” your responses.
5. Consider everything you write as dialogue with God—a casual, informal prayer conversation that helps you grow into knowing Him (and yourself) better.

Finally, be sure to bring your journal every Sunday to take notes.

## A Guide to Journal Symbols



context clues or background information about the passage



extra application or activity beyond reflection and prayer



# A Note from Pastor Tom

I want to be an optimist! I believe we can always grow and improve. John Wesley believed this too, and he taught Methodists to grow in God's grace. Being a Christian for Wesley was far more than "being saved." Salvation is only the starting place, not the end. Babies are cute, but babies need to grow; they need to learn how to crawl, then how to walk, skip, jump and run. It's a process that happens little by little. It takes time and practice, and determination. Christians need to grow too. Spiritual maturity never happens all at once. It, too, is a process. There are ways we can cooperate with maturity and ways we can impede our development.

Ephesians 2:10 shows the movement of God's grace in us. We are saved by grace, not because we deserve it. However the purpose of our salvation is to do good works. We are here for a greater reason than to just hang on until we get to heaven: we are here to bear fruit. Good fruit is the best evidence we have that we are growing in Christ. Our Christian faith is to be APPLIED not just appreciated. It calls us into action and discipleship. Grace is not just for salvation; it is for growing us into mature believers. Asbury will do its part to help, but each person must take responsibility for his or her own growth. It will take time, practice and determination but as Matthew 19:25–26 reminds us, with God's grace ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE: the lost can be found; the fearful can become courageous; the selfish can become considerate and the greedy can become generous.

Two very important aspects of growing in spiritual maturity are learning to serve others by putting their needs ahead of our own and learning to give to and invest in the things that have eternal significance. If we can learn to do these two things well, then we will bear fruit! Abraham Lincoln said, *"People are generally as happy as they make up their minds to be!"* I believe our best chance at happiness comes from living out our faith—doing good works and bearing fruit—that's where it happens for Christians! This is our time to grow in two of the most meaningful and influential ways possible.

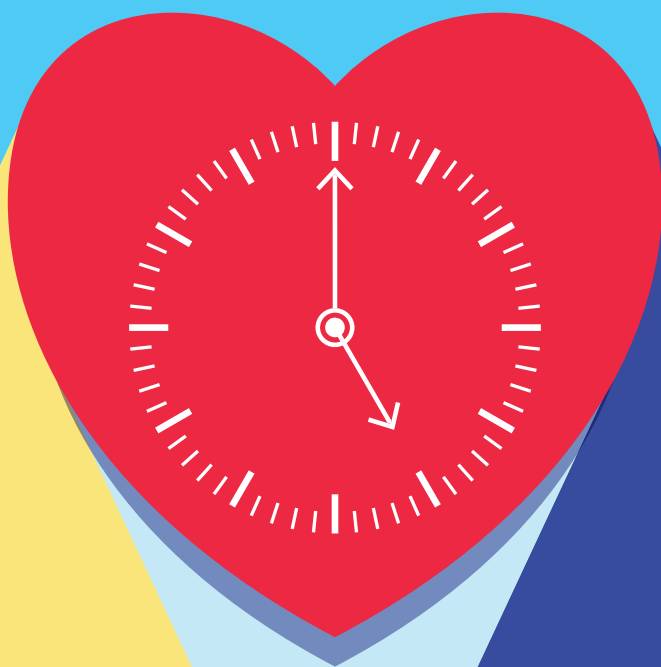
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Dr. Tom Harrison, *Senior Pastor*

“Unless I miss my guess, you are tired of the superficial. You want to be a force for good in a world of evil—a person of authenticity in a world of hypocrisy. You are tired of just criticizing what you see happening around you—you want to be part of the answer, not part of the problem.”

—Charles Swindoll, *Improving Your Serve*

# JUST A DAY?





# Changing the World

I was in New York City last weekend. I was served by people in a variety of ways. There were waiters and taxi drivers and sales clerks and doormen and maids and flight attendants and ticket takers, each with different approaches to serving. The Uber drivers were friendly; the taxi drivers were not. Our waiter at the most expensive restaurant we went to was grumpy, while our least costly meal was served by a very nice waiter. In contrast to popular opinion, I found most New Yorkers friendly, helpful and ready to serve.

If given the choice between serving and being served, I suspect most people would choose the latter. Serving can be hard and humbling. Some people are demanding; others impatient or unappreciative. Sometimes the work itself is demeaning or exhausting. But Jesus chose to serve: *"For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Mark 10:45). To choose to serve voluntarily in this wicked world and die in the process is the greatest gift humankind has ever received.

Jesus also redefined serving. Right before He died He wanted to make sure the disciples understood the importance of being a servant so He gave them a clear example to follow, *"...He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' He asked them. 'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them'"* (John 13:4–5,12,14–17). Wow. The simplicity of serving like Jesus. Anyone can wash feet. All it takes is a towel, a bucket of water, and the humility to get on our knees.

I loved Kylee Broadhurst's quote about the Guatemalan orphanage where she volunteered this summer, *"Sometimes changing the world means changing a diaper."*

Be blessed. Serve like Jesus. Change the world.

–Betty Higgins, 2nd Saturday Co-Director

Mark 10:35–45

We often think of servants as lowly, ignorant creatures who are mistreated and live without dignity. We recoil at the idea of shuffling through life without purpose or self-esteem. *But that's not how we picture Jesus.* God wants to develop us into the image of His Son—and His Son is a servant. To live like a servant is to be like Jesus.

*"For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."*

–Luke 22:27

**Note: Tomorrow is the last day to register for the Day of Service. Everyone is invited to participate in this intergenerational event! Go to [www.asburytulsa.org](http://www.asburytulsa.org) for more information or to sign up.**

*Isaiah 42:1–7***THURSDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

The book of Isaiah contains four “servant songs” which refer to the Messiah as a servant. Isaiah 42:1–7 is the first, Isaiah 49:1–13; 50:4–11; and 52:13–53:12 are the others. These songs are prophetic, meaning they would help people recognize the Messiah when He came. But they are also descriptive because they help us understand the Messiah’s purpose and character.



*Messiah* is the Hebrew term meaning “anointed one,” which is *Christ* in Greek. The ancient Israelites were looking forward to the coming of their Savior, the Messiah. From our vantage point today, we know Jesus is the Messiah and can recognize Him in these verses.

We, the church, remain on earth as the body of Jesus—as His representatives. Try reading today’s passage as a description of the church.

Now read it again, as a description of yourself—your purpose and character in Christ, and as a member of His holy church. How might these verses empower you as a servant of the Lord?

*John 8:28–29*

Christians do not live a servant life because they have low self-esteem, lack of opportunities, or absence of drive. Christians live servant lives because we have the freedom and power to choose so. We also have the best example in the history of the world—Jesus.



## Romans 8:28–29

**SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

It is God's *sanctifying* grace at work in our lives to renew the image of God in us. To choose a lifestyle of service is to cooperate with God's Holy Spirit, to please the Father and to be like Jesus.

*"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*

—Ephesians 5:1–2

What is your biggest obstacle to living a servant lifestyle? Ask the Lord to open your eyes to what is hindering you and then ask Him to remove the obstacle or help you overcome it.

"We are to be centers through which Jesus can flow as rivers of living water in blessing to everyone. Some of us are like the Dead Sea, always taking in but never giving out, because we are not rightly related to the Lord Jesus. As surely as we receive from Him, He will pour out through us, and in the measure He is not pouring out, there is a defect in our relationship to Him. Is there anything between you and Jesus Christ?"

—Oswald Chambers,  
*My Utmost for His Highest*

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

*"You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake."*

Today is Asbury's annual Day of Service. This is a great opportunity to honor Jesus by serving others. If you did not pre-register, "walk-in" registration is welcome at the CLC desk between 9:00 am and noon. Open to all ages.

# 1 John 3:11–18

**MONDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

*"Jesus answered, 'It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

—Luke 4:8

Practically speaking, how does someone serve God? Make this question a topic of conversation with other believers to see what you can learn or what encouragement you may offer.

God is conforming us to the image of Jesus, who is generous. A person with a renewed mind and a transformed heart will be eager to give. Scripture encourages us to give not from compulsion (which is works-based) but from compassion—which is according to God's love and grace at work in our lives.

*"And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts. Whoever speaks should do so as those who speak God's word. Whoever serves should do so from the strength that God furnishes. Do this so that in everything God may be honored through Jesus Christ. To him be honor and power forever and always. Amen."*

—1 Peter 4:10–11 (CEB)

*John 13:1-17*

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–Luke 12:37

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# The Tractor Man

You may have never seen the Tractor Man, but he has roamed the Asbury properties along south Mingo since the day they were purchased.

The Tractor Man's story began in 1934 in the middle of the Great Depression on a farm near Watonga, Oklahoma, where a healthy boy was born and given the name Mel. Mel and his brothers and sisters learned from their mom and dad that everyone living in the household had to be a servant if they were to survive the harsh times.

The hard work of the farm carried over into Mel's veterinary practice. After Mel retired, Mary told me how nice it was to have Mel home all morning on Christmas, for you see, he wouldn't ask his employees to check the dogs and cats on Christmas day, but he would.

I tell you about Mel's work habits to help you better understand why God chose him to be the Tractor Man. Soon after Asbury purchased the Mingo property, Mel asked Mary what she thought about buying a tractor to keep the Asbury land mowed for a few years before construction would begin. Mary, who has a servant's mind as well, agreed.

By the spring of 2000, Mel was ready to mow. First, there were heavy rocks to move before the tractor could safely mow the 35 acres. On February 29, 2004, the people of Asbury worshiped in their new building. Most did not know the Tractor Man had ridden his tractor for two years caring for the land while waiting for construction to begin.

The Tractor Man's work was not finished. A group from Asbury formed a partnership to buy vacant lots across the street north of Asbury. Mel saw there was more work to do, so he cleared rocks, moved dirt and mowed the grass.

Twelve years ago, Mel and Mary sold their home and moved to Methodist Manor. Soon after the move, someone stole Mel's tractor and trailer. Mel and Mary decided to buy another tractor and trailer, for their work was not done.

Mel, now in his 80s, hooks his trailer carrying his tractor behind his truck every week during the growing season and heads for the property north of Asbury on south Mingo. The dust and hot sun are no different than that of his boyhood farm. Mel could spend his savings on vacations, but he prefers to ride his dusty tractor in service for you and Jesus.

—Grandpa John

*Romans 12:1–8*

Have you ever thought of your mind or heart as a “storeroom” of opinions, attitudes, values and beliefs? Who or what do you allow to fill your storerooms?

# 2 Corinthians 10:1–7

**THURSDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Corinth was a thriving commercial city which served as a crossroad for travelers and traders. Being Greek, the people favored philosophy and wisdom and worshipped Greek gods such as Aphrodite. Most notably, Corinth was plagued with sexual immorality. Along with its cultural challenges, the church had fallen prey to a group of false teachers who challenged Paul's authority. Paul visited and wrote letters to the Corinthians in an attempt to address these issues.



As we consider how a servant thinks, we'll begin with a contrast by looking at the Corinthians who, though they were Christians, had a secular mindset: Forming judgments and opinions based on appearances; shallow thinking; failing to discern; overly impressed with humans; spiritually out of focus.

What mental "strongholds" or walls stand in the way of God's truth getting into your mind? (Consider the list above or other possibilities such as pride, education, negative attitudes, prejudices, rationalizations, stubbornness...)

## 2 Corinthians 10:8–18

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*"If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load."*

–Galatians 6:3–5



## Matthew 5:1–12

**SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Look at today's familiar passage as a word-portrait of a servant.

The poor in spirit know they need God and put all their trust in Him (in contrast with the self-righteous and spiritually learned Pharisees).

Those who mourn are those who ache and anguish for the hurts and sorrows of others (compassion is at the heart of this character trait).

The meek—also translated the gentle—are not weak but keep their strength under control (being calm and peaceful when the environment is volatile; behavior choices that allow others to retain their dignity).

Those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness have an insatiable appetite for God.

The merciful show concern for people in need—it is ministry to the miserable. True servants get involved, and they get dirty because they care. (Jesus!)

The pure in heart emphasizes the inner man, someone who does the right thing—for the right reason (integrity is at the heart of this character trait).

The peacemakers, as much as it depends on them, will promote true peace.

Those who have been persecuted—because those who do what is right will be mistreated, and those who serve others will sometimes suffer.

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How does this portrait help your understanding of what it means to be a servant?



# I got my 3rd grade Bible! Now what?

A rite of passage in many United Methodist churches is awarding Bibles to 3rd graders. Every year, in congregations across the United States, 3rd graders line up at the altar rail to receive their Bibles. Names are inscribed inside. The books smell of fresh ink and have that delicious creak when the children open them. So now what? Too often, families go home, and the Bibles go up on the shelf.

Parents—you are your children's spiritual leaders, and the primary disciple-makers in your family. As such, you are uniquely positioned to help prevent Bible presentations from becoming just another childhood memory. Here are six tips to consider in making the Bible an important part of your children's early faith journey. You may modify and use these suggestions to engage the whole family.

## 1. **Tell the story of your Bible.**

Many people carry New Testaments or entire Bibles that belonged to relatives. Others use Bibles with notes and explanations. Help your children understand the important role your Bible plays in your life. Let them see you carry it, mark it and write in it. Instead of using your Bible app during worship, bring a physical copy with you and encourage your children to do the same.

## 2. **Teach 3rd graders how to use their new Bibles.**

The sheer number of pages can be overwhelming to a child. Explain what the citation John 3:16 means and how to search first for the book, then the chapter and then the verse. Make a game out of it. Have your kids sit around a table (or on the floor) with their Bibles. Put craft sticks (spoons will work, too) in the middle. Race to see who can find the book and the chapter and verse first. Whoever does so grabs a stick. When all the sticks have been taken, the person with the most is the winner.

## 3. **Play memory games to learn the books of the Bible.**

Start with the New Testament. Make an index card for each New Testament book. If your children enjoy art, let them decorate the cards. Then scramble the cards and ask them to put the cards in order. Or play a card game. Have a set of cards for each child. Shuffle and deal them. Play a game (call it "New Testament Rummy") where children can discard only if they have the next book in order. Whoever discards all their cards first, wins.

## 4. **Read beloved stories together.**

Most children's Bibles have indexes of famous stories and parables. Show your 3rd grader how to use this index to choose a different story each Sunday. Reserve time for them to find stories that are familiar or that sound interesting to them. Ask the children to take turns reading the Scripture. Although you may need to help them with some words, children often love to be asked to read. It is also important to recognize not every child learns in the same way. Some children need someone to read to them.

## 5. **Make art and writing part of the Bible experience.**

Encourage your children to draw or paint the story they have heard or read. Make sure

you write the Bible verse that corresponds to the drawing. Using string or ribbon, bind these drawings so each child has an “art Bible.”

Talk about the writers in the Bible. Do a little research so you can share information about the writers. For instance, children are usually fascinated to know Paul wrote many of the letters that are books in the New Testament from prison. Encourage your children to channel their “inner Paul” and write a letter to their church. They can suggest things the church is doing well and things they think should be improved. Or ask them to write letters to friends or relatives explaining how God wants them to live. The title of these letters can be “Heather’s letter to the church at...”

**6. Invite your children to highlight Scripture or passages.**

The most precious Bibles are those that are used. Encourage students to highlight verses or stories they read in their Bibles. Let them write notes or questions in the margins. These markings will not deface the children’s Bibles. Rather, they will stand as precious reminders of their childhood thoughts as they age.

Children’s minds are like sponges—open to new words and ideas. What a perfect time for the Bible to come into their lives. With your help, that new Bible will make an imprint on their hearts—rather than their bookshelves.

*(Resource: adapted from <http://www.umcom.org/learn/i-got-my-third-grade-bible-now-what>; accessed on June 18, 2015.)*

# *Ephesians 4:1–16*

**MONDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

According to this passage:  
What has Christ given us and  
for what purpose (verses  
11–12a)?

Why does Christ want us to  
serve (verses 12b)?

What does service accomplish  
in us (verses 13)?

How, then, is service integral  
to our growth and maturity in  
Christ (verses 12–15)?

How does maturity improve  
and protect our thought life  
(verses 14–15)?



# Privileged

I had the privilege of having parents who exemplified being servants of Jesus Christ. In my teens, I knew I wanted to serve my Lord as a missionary or a pastor's wife. He graciously granted both of those desires. In 1946–49, I was a missionary teacher in a Methodist girls' school in Lima, Peru, where I fell in love with everything about Latin America, especially the people. I established many lifelong friendships especially with one family whom I have visited often, and some of them have come to visit me here. One young girl stayed with us for five months, attending Glenpool High School as a senior. I deeply cherish that relationship!

After returning to the U.S.A., I attended seminary in Illinois, where I met my husband to be, Clarence Morrison. In 1952, we were married and, in 1955, moved to Iowa where we served in nine churches all over the state. Together we started many small Bible study and prayer groups. We discipled many couples, several of whom we still have deep friendships with. When our only child, Anita, moved to Tulsa to attend ORU, we welcomed three young women into our home as they needed a place to live. Clarence officiated at the weddings of two of the girls, and we are still in contact with them and their families. Anita later married and moved to Glenpool; they have a son and daughter and six grandchildren and are carrying on the legacy of service in their churches.

Upon retiring in 1983, we moved to Glenpool to be close to our daughter and her family. Clarence was hired by Pastor Bill Mason to become the pastor of the Tweenagers at Asbury. Thus began my 32 years of serving here in UMW, music ministry, the prayer leadership team, Seekers community, Carpenter's Workshop, the 2nd Saturday prayer van and the Latin American mission team. Mothers' Fellowship is another of my passions where I have been blessed to mentor and teach hundreds of young women for over 30 years. I have been on 34 VIM trips to many countries in Latin America. I have also mentored many youth on those trips, some of whom have become close friends because of repeated visits to their cities, especially in Mexico and Peru. What a blessing and privilege God has granted me!

As Pastor Tom says, we must be faithful to stay and work here at Asbury and in our local missions, and/or be sent as ambassadors of Christ's love and His Gospel to the unbelievers and new believers in other states and countries. I have had the awesome opportunity to do both. I humbly thank and praise my Lord for granting me the enormous pleasure of serving Him over so many years! Matthew 23:11–12 says, *"The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."*

–Esther Gene Morrison, age 92

*Philippians 2:1–11*

–2 Corinthians 5:14–15



## Matthew 23:1–12

**THURSDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Jesus often pointed to the Pharisees and the teachers of the law as the standard for what not to do. They specialized in service as theory, and it seems most of what they did was out of selfish ambition and vain conceit (Philippians 2:3–4).

Compare Jesus' description of the Pharisees with His self-description below.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

—Matthew 11:28–30

Who would you rather follow?

Who would you rather be with?

Who would you rather be like?

*Matthew 25:31–46*

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*Luke 10:25–37***SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

The expert of the law wanted to approach eternal life with analysis: what, how, when and why. Jesus gave the legal expert a story of action, not theory. The Samaritan saw the need and responded to it. He got personally involved, and he demonstrated love and mercy with his actions.

What was Jesus' instruction to the legal expert (verse 37b)? Jot it here:

Recall John 13:1–17 when Jesus washed the disciple's feet. He didn't say I gave you an example that you should: study about it on Sundays; discuss it in small groups; memorize and repeat it often; or put it on a plaque and hang it on your wall. He said: I gave you an example that you should *do* as I did for you.

*Philippians 2:1–8*

–John 12:25–26

[illegible]

## Romans 13:8–14

**MONDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

*"You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?"*

—1 Corinthians 3:3

How do the actions listed in Romans 13:12–14 stand in opposition to Philippians 2:3–4?

Desires of the flesh cause us to be competitive, to always feel the need to "win," and to put ourselves first every chance we get. Selfish desires cause us to take the best parking spaces, the biggest piece of cake, the longest shower, the easiest chore, and the last seat. Selfish desires take and take and give very little.

*"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."*

—Galatians 5:13

Romans 12:9–13

As servants reach out, as we honor one another above ourselves—Christ's life is modeled. Jesus could have been anything. He could have done anything. Consciously and voluntarily, Jesus chose to give and to serve. If our goal is to become increasingly more like Jesus, then we, too, will give and serve.

**+1** If you are low on “spiritual fervor” then a smart way to start living a servant life is to “automate” what you can. Set up your giving to Asbury by arranging an automatic draft with your bank. You can “automatically” put God’s resources to work and partner with Him in serving others through the efforts of the church. Join the hospitality team, children’s ministry or some other area of interest. That way the decision to serve is made once, but the opportunity repeats itself on a regular basis (usually two to four hours/month).

# NaCl

Common salt, or sodium chloride, is the chemical compound NaCl, and it occurs naturally in many parts of the world. As I researched the useful aspects of salt, I began to wonder if God made salt so important *just so* Jesus could refer to it later.

Primarily, salt is a preservative. It is the world's oldest method of preserving food and other things prone to decay because many pathogenic microbes are unable to grow in the presence of salt. In foods, it works in multiple ways to enhance texture and flavor. It is a binder in protein gels and helps maintain color. It is also a nutrient source essential for survival.

In His infinite wisdom, God made salt so effective even the tiniest amount goes a long, long way. In fact, it must be sprinkled (spread out) when seasoning food because too much salt can ruin. Salt is desirable, but it is also obscure. We don't think "this salt tastes good," but we think "this food tastes good" after adding salt to it. Also salt is different from all other seasonings, which is its strength. It has no duplicate, and it must be applied to be useful.

It has hundreds of health and household uses, too. Generally speaking, as an abrasive, it cleans and purifies; as a gargle or soak, it calms and soothes.

Historically, salt had crucial economic importance. A far-flung trade in ancient Greece involving the exchange of salt for slaves gave rise to the expression, "not worth his salt." Special salt rations given to early Roman soldiers were known as "salarium argentum," which was the forerunner of the English word "salary." Because of its value, salt was an important trading commodity carried by explorers.

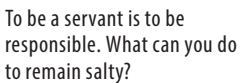
Also, salt played a vital part in religious rituals in many cultures by symbolizing immutable, incorruptible purity. The Lord instructed the Israelites to "*season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings*" (Leviticus 2:13).

So when we consider the role of salt in history and apply that to the role of Christians in the world, we can see Jesus chose a powerful metaphor. When salt is combined with other things, the "other things" are affected and improved. As God's servants, Christians affect and improve the world in a unique way. We help cleanse and purify that which is corrupt and help protect and preserve that which is good. Mysteriously, what we bind on earth is bound in heaven. We season our environments with the grace of God. And wherever we go, we carry with us the gospel of Christ—which is essential for salvation.

—Stephanie Hurd, *Journal Coordinator*

(Resources: [http://www.saltworks.us/salt\\_info/si\\_WhatIsSalt.asp](http://www.saltworks.us/salt_info/si_WhatIsSalt.asp) and [http://foodreference.about.com/od/Ingredients\\_Basics/a/Functions-Of-Salt-In-Food.htm](http://foodreference.about.com/od/Ingredients_Basics/a/Functions-Of-Salt-In-Food.htm), accessed on June 22, 2015.)

## Matthew 5:13–16

[illegible]



## 2 Timothy 3:1–9

**THURSDAY**  
OCTOBER 1, 2015

Note: The “last days” is the time between Pentecost and Jesus’ second coming.

How well does Paul’s descriptive list of behaviors in the “last days” fit our culture?

Unfortunately, many Christians also behave in these ways. Check your life against Paul’s list. Where might you be settling for less than God has intended for you?

Also, some people put on a religious “act” by going to church, using the right words and following some of the traditions, but they do not submit themselves to the rule of God or the Lordship of Christ. Paul warns readers not to be deceived by people who only appear to be Christians. Though it may be hard to discern at first, eventually their daily behavior will give them away.

Bottom line? We live in a world that is difficult, depraved and deceived. What it needs are indispensable instruments for good who can dispel evil and darkness. Living like a servant causes us to stand apart and be different. To be God’s servants is to shine a light into dark places, to season our environments with His grace and to positively influence the world in which we live.

## 2 Corinthians 6:3–13

–Andrew Dragos  
(<http://seedbed.com/feed/6-tips-for-new-graduates-buzzfeed>, accessed on June 23, 2015)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 2:5

**SATURDAY**  
OCTOBER 3, 2015

Notice what Paul says in verse 26—not many of you were influential or of noble birth; that means that some actually were influential and of noble birth. And to those who were not, Paul assures his readers that God causes the least likely among us to have tremendous influence.

God can work through you no matter how foolish, weak, lowly or afraid you might feel. Whatever your age, sex and station in life—through Jesus Christ and the power of His Spirit—you have the ability to be a culture-shaper and a difference-maker.

If the Lord has placed you in a position of power, then use it for His glory. If the Lord has placed you in ordinary circumstances, then ask Him to demonstrate His power through you. Either way—give thanks because God has made you a person of influence and called you to live a life of significance in Him.

If there was one thing about our culture you could change—what would it be? Make it your one week challenge to pray earnestly and consistently about that.

**+1**

**SUNDAY**  
OCTOBER 4, 2015

Matthew 5:13–16

*"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day."*

–Proverbs 4:18

*“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ.”*

—Philippians 1:27a

## Philippians 2:12–18

How does living a servant life in obedience to Jesus add purpose to our influence?

# Case Study from our Culture: How to Lead by Influence Rather Than Positional Power

In the workplace, leading by influence is often more profound than leading by your positional power alone. Regardless of whether you're a manager or a regular employee, you have the ability to lead other people in your job. In certain cases, your coworkers will follow the example of a prominent employee, regardless of what the title says on her name plate. If you're interested in leading by influence and example, you could have a large impact on your business.

**Step 1:** Do the work that you expect others to do. If you're the manager of a department, regularly do some of the job responsibilities of your subordinates. Employees don't like being told what to do by someone who isn't willing to chip in and contribute. If the manager is willing to step in and do the work, the employees are much more likely to follow suit.

**Step 2:** Be positive as often as possible. While no one can be happy and positive at all times, it's in your best interest to be that way as much as possible. Employees are more likely to follow someone who's kind and has a good attitude. If you're interested in being a leader, try to make others feel good about themselves in some way, and smile often.

**Step 3:** Allow others to approach you at any time. If you're the manager, make it known to your employees that you can be approached about anything at any time. If your employees are not comfortable approaching you, they'll be less likely to respect you. If you're easily approachable and always welcoming to your employees, it creates an environment of comfort and mutual respect.

**Step 4:** Remain consistent at all times. If you tell your employees one thing and then do another, it makes you lose credibility in their eyes. For example, if you expect your employees to work late and then you leave early every day, this won't go over well with your employees. If you give your word, always keep it. Once you lose credibility in the eyes of your coworkers, it's very difficult to get back again.

—Luke Arthur, *Demand Media*

(<http://smallbusiness.chron.com/lead-influence-rather-positional-power-25002.html>, accessed on June 30, 2015.)

Colossians 4:2–6

–Wesleyan Principle

Imagine what might happen in our homes, our schools, our work places, and our churches—if Christians made a daily habit of asking the Lord to help us make the most of every opportunity—especially if we really meant it (verse 5).

*"In everything set them an example by doing what is good."*

–Titus 2:7a



# Live Out Loud

Not many of us at Asbury have had to take risks for our faith. We have freedom to speak, share and gather openly. We have great comfort in being Christians. Many people in the world (and many in partnership with Asbury's global outreach) do live at risk as Christians. They set examples for us in living out their faith under difficult circumstances. One is Gloria Kwashi, the wife of the Anglican Bishop of Jos, Nigeria. She and her husband have been ministering under persecution for many years and yet remain faithful and vibrant in ministry. Gloria says, "I do not want to take the grace of God for granted. The fact that I am alive today is only by His grace. Although my experience (attacked by rebels and left for dead) lingers in my mind as if it were yesterday, it does so, not with unforgiveness but rather with gratitude to God, who protected, provided and healed me in every way and also gave me strength for my everyday walk with Him." When I read her story, I am truly humbled by her courage, forgiveness and endurance.

As I consider what it means for us in Tulsa, these are some things that may seem like risks to us:

Missing an evening of comfort with Christian friends to plant seeds of faith in an unbeliever through fellowship and conversation in, perhaps, an uncomfortable setting.

Choosing to financially support someone in ministry rather than spending it on something I don't need.

Giving up hours of TV, sleep, Facetime, etc., to spend time determining how to obey the scripture that I read.

Reflecting each day on how I influenced those I encountered—do they have any idea that I'm a Christian? Did I say or do something to be positive in their life? Did I plant a seed of faith for them?

Praying for those who are my worst enemies rather than thinking it is OK they will go to hell. Isn't that what Jesus taught us?

All of these require us to be willing to make ourselves uncomfortable (a slight risk!) but we can do it. It takes some courage, but it gets easier. This definition of courage should inspire us:

"Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the ability to move forward in the face of it. There is beauty in this definition, because courage can exist in the decisions we make every day. Courage exists in the individual who accepts who they are and *openly lives the life they want in the face of rejection*" (emphasis added).

—Ryan Pitts, *Medal of Honor recipient for valor in Afghanistan*

The rewards for having courage in our faith?

- We experience more grace and forgiveness for ourselves.
- We see God's desire for ALL to know Him.
- We are encouraged by the suffering of others.
- We are encouraged and excited by someone giving his or her life to Christ whether from our seed of faith or someone else's.
- We are affirmed by God for doing our small part in His kingdom—the part that He has given us. He will use that for good even if we never see it.

“The world is not ours to manage or to save. Our task is to focus on our individual callings in engaging with the world, to trust that others are following theirs too, and to leave to God the masterminding of the grand outcome. ”

—Os Guinness, *Renaissance*

Can we learn to “live out loud” as Christians (a term learned in the Perspectives course) and possibly face rejection or someone's sneer, as Tom recently shared in a sermon? I pray so—let us move out of our comfort zone, take a risk and, in unshakable trust in God, earn the great reward of a life that will be acknowledged as one well-lived.

—Mary Ann Smith, *Former Director of Global Outreach*

## 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

**WEDNESDAY**  
OCTOBER 7, 2015

Living like a servant is not completely safe; sometimes we will suffer for doing what's right. Unselfish living has risks, but it is worth it because it also has rewards—rewards which may be “postponed” but are never, ever forgotten by the One we serve.

Some common risks Americans face in living the servant life is the feeling of being used and unappreciated—which will happen. We may also be at risk because of our motives, when we secretly desire to be acknowledged and rewarded by others.

Pride and greed cause us to want to get the credit we think we deserve, and get it sooner, not later. In living as Christian servants it helps if we accept ahead of time that most of our good deeds initially will be left unrewarded. However, as we model the life of Christ through service, we will experience the temporal benefits of inner joy and deep satisfaction.

*“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”*

—1 Peter 2:21

## 2 Corinthians 4:4–11

(Peter has more to say on this subject, see 1 Peter 3:8–4:19.)

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## Galatians 6:7–10

**FRIDAY**
**OCTOBER 9, 2015**

Today's reading reminds us of our responsibility—the harvest depends on the sowing.

In what ways are you being intentional about sowing seeds?

*"Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well."*

—Ecclesiastes 11:6

God keeps His promises and His servants will be rewarded sometimes now, but mostly later. When serving gets tough, we can rest assured that rewards may be postponed, but they will never be forgotten.

*"God 'will repay each person according to what they have done.' To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life."*

—Romans 2:6–7

Are you persisting in doing good by making the most of every opportunity? If your efforts are flagging, ask the Lord of the Harvest to renew your strength.

## 1 Corinthians 3:10–15

**+1** Write Psalm 139:23–24 in your journal. Make it your daily prayer this week.

## 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

**SUNDAY****OCTOBER 11, 2015**

*"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."*

—James 1:12

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

—2 Timothy 4:7–8

*Matthew 10:37–42*

–Colossians 3:23–24



1 Corinthians 9:19–27

**TUESDAY**  
OCTOBER 13, 2015

Scripture mentions different types of eternal crowns which are being set aside for God's servants:

The imperishable crown (1 Corinthians 9:24–27) for those who consistently bring their flesh under the Holy Spirit's control.

The crown of exultation (Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19–20) for those who are faithful to declare the gospel and lead souls to Christ (remember this is based on quality not quantity).

The crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7–8) for those who conduct their earthly lives with eternity's value in view while eagerly anticipating the return of Christ.

The crown of life (James 1:12) for those who continue to love the Lord through all their trials and sufferings.

The crown of glory (1 Peter 5:1–4) for those who faithfully “shepherd the flock.”

[illegible]

Which of these would be most meaningful to you?

Getting to wear a crown could go to our heads if we let it (no pun intended). To keep this whole “crown thing” in perspective, look at Revelation 4:9–11.



A close-up photograph showing a hand gently holding a baby's foot. The baby is wearing a white sock. A patterned blanket with brown and black geometric designs is draped over the baby. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a warm, golden glow.

## **The Three-Mile-Per-Hour God**



# Pacing is Everything

Christianity, when it is true to itself, proclaims the power, healing and transformation found in Jesus Christ. The moment any Christian movement loses its focus on the person of Jesus Christ, it ceases to be fully, wholly Christian. It is the person of Jesus Christ who makes us the people of God. Mark 5:21–43 helps us see this point by showing us precisely who Jesus is.

In this passage, there are two people reaching out to Jesus in faith: a well-known, named, and respected synagogue ruler, named Jairus and an unknown and unnamed woman who was ritually unclean and banned from the Temple. This woman risked her dignity and the anonymity of her suffering by touching the hem of Jesus' garment. To the amazement of the disciples, Jesus instantly stops and asks, *"Who touched me?"* The disciples are aghast at this question. *"Lord, you see the crowd pressing against you and yet you ask, who touched me?"* You see, for most of us life is just a bunch of accidental contacts. We push and shove our way through life, but Jesus was the most sensitive man who ever lived. He knew when someone reached out in faith to touch Him.

The disciples had a singular view of the mission of Jesus: Get to Jairus' house. They didn't want any interruptions. However, Jesus was a man who never minded being interrupted. He did not run to Jairus' house. He wasn't in a big hurry. He continued walking. There is a book entitled, *The Three Mile Per Hour God*. The thrust of the book is the reason most of us miss the Lord in our daily lives is we are running and dashing through life while God is moving at three miles per hour—the pace of walking. We are commanded in Scripture to "walk" with God. Jesus walked through the world. It is amazing to realize Jesus accomplished the redemption of the entire world at three miles per hour.

Make a point of slowing your pace down so you can be sensitive to the pain of those around you. You will find great things can be accomplished at three miles per hour! The world is full of people who feel shut out from the presence of God. They feel they have no access to healing, hope or salvation. If we slow down enough to allow them to touch us, we will find that Christ will still extend his healing power and gracious salvation through us to those in need.

—Dr. Timothy Tennent, *President of Asbury Theological Seminary*

(Excerpt adapted from: <http://timothytennent.com/2010/01/26/the-three-mile-per-hour-god-mark-521-43>. Accessed on July 12, 2015.)

Mark 5:21–43

**+1** Ask the Lord to help you slow your pace and roll with all the interruptions that pop up this week. Ask Him to help you view the interruptions the same way Jesus would. Pray He will fill you with His Holy Spirit to handle each interaction in a manner that brings glory to the Father.

## Mark 7:31–37

**THURSDAY**  
OCTOBER 15, 2015

Jesus was doing what  
God promised the  
Messiah would do.



*“And when he comes, he will  
open the eyes of the blind and  
unplug the ears of the deaf.  
The lame will leap like a deer,  
and those who cannot speak  
will sing for joy! Springs will  
gush forth in the wilderness,  
and streams will water the  
wasteland.”*

—Isaiah 35:5–6 (NLT)

Notice that Jesus’ healings  
and interactions rarely  
happened the same way  
twice. They weren’t scripted  
or predictable, but they were  
always sincere and sensitive  
to the other person’s  
situation.

*Ephphatha!* Pray the Lord will  
open your eyes to the pain  
of those around you, unstop  
your ears to the cry of those  
in need, and help you speak  
plainly words of comfort  
and wisdom that come from  
God. You have ordinary  
opportunities every day to  
be the presence of Jesus in  
the lives of people who are  
looking for hope. Be open and  
be present.





*Mark 6:45–56*

**SATURDAY**  
OCTOBER 17, 2015

Are you always in a hurry or running late? Do you rush from one deadline or crisis to another? Is time with God your top priority or the thing you “squeeze” into your schedule? As a follower of Jesus, how does this reflect on Him?

Jesus’ pace allowed time for interruptions, but it also allowed time for solitude and prayer. He wasn’t afraid to prioritize time alone with the Father; in fact, He carved it into His schedule even if it meant staying up all night.

And when His disciples were “straining at the oars” because of a fierce storm on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus kept His pace (Mark 6:48–49).

When people were running to Him from all over the region, Jesus kept His pace (Mark 6:55–56).

When people were sick and dying, Jesus kept His pace (Mark 5:21–43).

When people tried to throw Him off a cliff, Jesus kept His pace (Luke 4:28–30).

Jesus has set the pace for us. By the example of His life, He has given us permission to walk instead of run. And on the flip side, we can take comfort in knowing no matter how desperate we may feel—Jesus is walking alongside us, ever steady. Jesus never panics.

Mark 5:21-43

—Luke 24:15

Special guest today: Dr. Timothy Tennent, President of Asbury Theological Seminary

*Luke 7:1–17***MONDAY**  
OCTOBER 19, 2015

We see in the Gospels, when someone came to Jesus with a request, He went with them or to them—in person (verse 6a). But in this passage, we discover He could heal people from a distance (verse 6b–10). Jesus didn't just "zap" people from where He was standing at the moment of the request, even though He could. The goal was to bring glory to the Father by demonstrating His power and His love (verse 16). Jesus always demonstrated these in the context of relationship and personal interactions.

Jesus wasn't wandering around aimlessly. He had a plan. He knew why He was here and exactly where He was headed. What makes Jesus so unconventional was the manner in which He followed the plan—at three miles per hour. It seems He actually *planned* to go slow, to take the long way and to be interrupted.

Interruptions are unavoidable and usually out of our control. What we do have control over is our attitude toward the interruptions, and the people who cause them. Our focus on outcomes can cause us to miss the moments God gives us with our family, friends, co-workers and even strangers.

## Matthew 9:27–38

As a disciple of Christ, what makes you “attractive” to those who don’t yet know Jesus?



In our “Get to Give” series, we’ll study five parables Jesus used to explain the character of God and the expectations God has of His people. Jesus’ parables were not straightforward or simple, but they engaged the listener and called His original audience to action. Will we see it as an honor that we “get to give” through, with and for Him and take the action He has taught and modeled? Or will we choose to do things our own way?

# All You Can

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, preached and lived a very clear message: Gain all you can—earn as much as you are able. Save all you can—not by hoarding but by living frugally and without waste. Give all you can—share as much as you are able.

Wesley considered wealth and the failure to give the most serious threats to the Methodist movement in particular and Christianity in general.

In his sermon “Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity,” Wesley observed that discipleship makes us more diligent and frugal, and as we become more diligent and frugal, wealth increases. “Wherever riches have increased, the essence of religion, the mind that was in Christ, has decreased in the same proportion. Therefore, I do not see how it is possible for any revival of true religion to continue long. For religion must necessarily produce both industry and frugality, and these cannot but produce riches. But as riches increase, so will pride, anger and love of the world in all its branches.”

So what was John Wesley’s solution?

“What way, then, (I ask again) can we take, that our money may not sink us to the nethermost hell? There is one way, and there is no other heaven. If those who gain all they can and save all they can will likewise give all they can then, the more they gain, the more they will grow in grace, and the more the treasure they will lay up in heaven.” In regard to his own stewardship practices, he was cautious, not believing himself to be immune to the allure of worldly riches. “Money never stays with me...I throw it out of my hands as soon as possible, lest it should find its way into my heart.”

Wesley’s desire for the people called Methodist was that we would not misplace our hope and affections, but would instead use our increased blessings to be a blessing to others.

.....

*“If riches increase, do not set your heart on them.”*

—Psalm 62:10a (NKJV)





*Ecclesiastes 2:1–11*

**THURSDAY**  
OCTOBER 22, 2015

*"Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'"*

-Luke 12:15

**"Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."**

—King Solomon

If ever a man had an abundance of possessions, it was King Solomon, son of David. Yet even he had the wisdom to recognize the transient nature of his wealth. Consider “chasing after the wind” in a literal sense. Can you catch it or hold onto it? No, it slips through your fingers. How is this image helpful in regard to your view of worldly possessions?

As you look to your future, how concerned are you about financial security? What role does God have in your sense of security?

How concerned are you about your spiritual, eternal security?



# Seeing Abundance

One day I said, "Lord, I want to give something to these Monterey missionaries to Cuba, Humberto and Myrtha Flores, who are staying with us." The Lord took me up on my offer and prompted me to open "Joy Alice's Mall." Naturally we take them shopping for ministry needs in stores here, but the idea of "Joy Alice's Mall" showed me that He has already given us the very things that *other people* need if we allow Him to open our eyes to see the abundance all around us.

When He showed me that Myrtha is my size, has my coloring and a need for nice clothes, I opened the doors wide so she could "shop" through my wardrobe just as if it were a mall. It took much encouragement, but her hesitation gave way to thankful joy as this minister was being ministered to in a very simple, but very meaningful way.

Now, I must admit I struggled at first when most of the clothes she picked were ones I had just purchased, some I had not even worn yet! However, I was inspired as the Lord reminded me how she and other missionaries sacrificially give to others in so many ways day in and day out.

Interestingly, the Lord led me to not replace those clothes by refraining from shopping and instead simply be content with what I have. Startled, I agreed. Then seeing my full closet, I smiled. The Lord surprised me and allowed me to see great outfits I have never put together before. My trust in Him has grown. I also now look for more ways the Lord wants to use me to give to others from His riches I am stewarding for Him.

I suggest you allow 2 Corinthians 9:6–8 to become both promise and prayer in your life. *"...he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let him give as he purposes in his heart...God is able to make all grace abound toward [your name] that always having all sufficiency in all things, [I] may have an abundance of every good work."*

.....

Lord, thank you for blessing us with such tremendous abundance of resources and possessions. Open our eyes so that we may focus on what we do have instead of being preoccupied by what we don't have. I pray my donating power will continue to be increased through my obeDIence to You.

–Joy Alice Morrow, *Member*

1 John 3:16-22

How has someone else's generosity touched you and shaped your practices of giving?

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# More Than Just My Own

A long-time member and proud grandfather stood at the baptism of his baby granddaughter. An infant from another family, new to the congregation, was baptized at the same service. Following the service, the two families intermingled at the front of the church as they took turns having their pictures taken. At one point, the mother from the new family needed to get some things out of her bag, so the grandfather from the other family offered to hold her baby.

Other church members were mixing and greeting, and several commented to the grandfather with the baby. He found himself saying several times, "Oh, this one isn't mine; I'm just holding him for a minute."

Monday morning the grandfather called the pastor at the church office and asked to see him right away. The pastor assumed the worst, thinking somehow the long-term member was upset about something from the day before. When the grandfather arrived at the church office, he told the pastor, "I want to change my will to include the church, and I want to talk to you about how to do that." The pastor was stunned and couldn't help asking about what brought the grandfather to this decision.

The older man's eyes grew moist as he said, "Yesterday I realized something while I was holding the baby of a family that joined the church. I kept telling people that he wasn't my child. Then it dawned on me that he was part of my family and that I have a responsibility for that little boy just like I have for my own granddaughter. I've been a member of this church for more than 40 years, and in God's eyes I'm a grandfather to more than just my own.

"I've taken care of my own children with my will, but I realized I also need to provide for the children of the church. So I want to divide my estate to leave a part to the church as if the church were one of my own children."

Those who practice extravagant generosity have a God given vision and faith to plant seeds for trees whose shade they will never see.

—Adapted from Bishop Robert Schnase, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

OCTOBER 25, 2015

*"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."*

“Having gained all you can, by honest wisdom and unwearying diligence, . . . save all you can,” said Wesley. Again, Wesley’s emphasis was a challenge to the contemporary practice of accumulating and hoarding rather than an endorsement of the practice. He was not calling for ‘the people called Methodists’ to invest wisely and build large savings accounts. In fact, he went so far as to compare such practices to ‘throwing your money into the sea.’”

—Bishop Kenneth L. Carder,  
*Giving from a Wesleyan  
Perspective*

[illegible]

# 1 Timothy 6:6–12

**MONDAY**
**OCTOBER 26, 2015**

*"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

—Luke 12:20

In this week's parable, it's as if God was telling the rich fool, *Get real! All that blessing you have kept for yourself means nothing now.*

Wise investments and large savings accounts are not bad. Riches are not wrong. The wealthy are not condemned. Wasting the opportunities afforded us, however, is no better than throwing those blessings away. Consider all that God has given you—time, talents, expertise, money, relationships, your home, your belongings—and ask God why He has given them to you? What does He want you to do with them?

*"Money is like seawater. The more a man drinks, the thirstier he becomes."*

—Roman Proverb

James 5:1-6

–Bishop Robert Schnase

If you're tithing, how has it made a difference in your life?



# Ready for a Reason

*"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks... You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."* –Luke 12:35–36, 40 (ESV)

What does it mean to be "ready" for Jesus to return? Does it mean we need to become perfect in order to be worthy of His redemption? Or does it mean living with a sense of peace and purpose, reflecting on His love for us and faithfully living out His calling on our lives?

More often than we'd like to admit, we go through our days completely focused on ourselves and how to get the next promotion, prize or praise. When we do take time to read His Word and reflect on verses like these, feelings of shame can burden us as we realize we have a lot of work to do to become the "best" version of ourselves to be ready for Jesus' return. The truth is, we are *already perfected* in Christ! He laid His life down for us, paying the price for our past, present and future sins. We are holy and blameless in His sight! Pastor and author Matt Chandler frequently says that, "God is not in love with a future version of you." As we allow this truth to sink in, that our Savior loves us as we are now and loves us enough to grow us, we can fulfill His purpose for us each day. When we think about it like that, we can't help but be filled with gratitude for His sacrifice and love for us.

This gratitude empowers us to trustingly live out His will, to glorify Him by serving and giving to others as a means of worshiping Him with our whole lives. How would you describe your life's purpose? How amazing could each day be if you lived out of this joy and purpose?

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Lord, help us to be aware of You every day. Help us to focus on Your will above our own. Remind us to celebrate the truth that You are with us now, and guide us as we faithfully share this hope with others. You are our one true God, our Creator, our purpose, the One who can fulfill our every need, heal our every hurt and bring us everlasting joy. Help us to faithfully follow You as we experience the blessing of Your presence now, and wait in joyful hope for the day You return!

–TJ and Lindsey Sprague, *Members*

*Luke 12:35–48*

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

**THURSDAY**  
OCTOBER 29, 2015

–Luke 12:35–38

If you don't feel *saved*, reach out to a Christian friend or call a pastor at 918.492.1771.



# Malachi 3:8–12

**SATURDAY**  
OCTOBER 31, 2015

*"But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows."*

—Luke 12:45–48a

James 4:17 (NLT) says, "It is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." By taking something intended for others and using it to indulge himself, the unfaithful servant in the parable abused the power and opportunity the master gave him, thus he sinned and deserved punishment. When we fail to use our financial resources as God has directed, we also sin.

How does that last sentence make you feel?

What constitutes financial obedience and disobedience in your opinion?

Are you tithing by giving 10 percent of what God has given you back to Him?

If not, why not? If not, do you consider you are robbing God or do you feel that's too harsh?

If you are tithing, ask the Lord if there's anything else He requires of you.

*Luke 12:35–48*

–Philippians 4:19 (NLT)

## Luke 12:22–34

**MONDAY**  
NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Verse 34 is often read as evidence and proof of a heart set on wrong things, an indictment against someone who's storing up worldly treasure. What occupies your thoughts, your daydreams, your to-do lists? That's where your heart is. How much of that is related to consuming or getting?

Verse 34 is also helpful as a cause-effect promise. Where do you want your heart to be? That's where you direct your treasure.

Jesus offers assurance that God is the source of provision for all creation, and generously meets the needs of those seeking His kingdom. Now consider this: God uses what He's already given to His people to meet needs of other people.

How ready are you to allow God to use what He's already given you to take care of others?

"The ultimate goal for Christians, in dealing with money and possessions, is to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. For Christians, this means that we use what God has entrusted to us in the same way the Lord Jesus would use it if he were in direct control of it, instead of us."

—from *Reclaiming the Wesleyan Tradition:*  
*John Wesley's Sermons for Today*





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## Set Aside Your Pride

As with many mission trips, the high school senior Spring Break Mission trip to Guatemala involves much manual labor—including demolition. As you can imagine, the senior boys (and some of the young adult male leaders, including myself) go on this trip absolutely chomping at the bit to get a sledge hammer in their hands or some other tool that puts their macho ego on a level with Thor. We (for I would be lying if I removed myself from this situation) truly cannot wait to work our faces off for the Lord. But, our nature also seeks to satisfy that sinister, egotistical voice that screams to be lauded as the hardest worker, the strongest one in the pack.

On the first day, as we stood around the leader of the orphanage waiting for our work assignments, I could feel the electricity in my veins, eager to get to work. I knew the other young men around me were feeling it too. That was when the first assignment option was thrown to the group for volunteers: “Who wants to play with the orphans?” Radio silence. None of the boys wanted to sacrifice his chance to do the manual labor. Finally, after much shuffling and staring at the ground, one of the boys set aside his pride and walked up the steps to go inside and play with the orphans, probably feeling a bit deflated.

This is exactly what Jesus calls us to do: to give and serve in ways that don’t have an obvious reward. This particular young man humbled himself by setting aside his pride and offering to give himself to the gentle work that often does not feel as rewarding, the work for which one is rarely recognized. But just as Jesus promised in Luke 14:11, when this young man humbled himself, in my eyes, the eyes of other leaders, and I know in the eyes of the Father, he was exalted.

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Father, help us to see our pride for the sin that it truly is. Let it not stand in our way, but instead, help us to defeat it by humbling ourselves so that Your name would be glorified above our own.

—Ryan Proctor, *Member*



Romans 12:1–21

*"He told them this parable: 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.'"*

-Luke 14:7b-8

**THURSDAY**  
NOVEMBER 5, 2015

What would you say to those who might use verses 6–8 to claim that giving is not their gift?

What do verses 3,16 and 20 say?

What is the relationship between humility and generosity?

"This is not easy stuff. . . . Those who choose to follow Christ have struggled since the very beginning to live differently in a world that often rejects their values and mocks their beliefs. The temptation to retreat from it and to keep our faith private has befallen every generation of Christians. Yet we are the carriers of the Gospel—the good news that was meant to change the world. Belief is not enough. Worship is not enough. Personal morality is not enough. And Christian community is not enough. God has always demanded more. When we committed ourselves to following Christ, we also committed to living our lives in such a way that a watching world would catch a glimpse of God's character—His love, justice, and mercy—through our words, actions, and behavior. 'We are . . . Christ's ambassadors.'"

--Rich Stearns,

*The Hole in Our Gospel: The Answer That Changed My Life and Might Just Change the World*



## Luke 19:1–10

**SATURDAY**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2015**

*"Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"*

—Luke 14:12–14

"The true gospel is a call to self-denial. It is not a call to self-fulfillment."

—John MacArthur

Today we read about a man who knew he had to get up higher to see where Jesus was in the big picture of his life. He went from having a passion to get to having a passion to give, evidenced by his willingness to share way beyond a minimum or token amount. What motivated Zacchaeus to make such a drastic change in his priorities?

What inspires you to immediate obedience, to grand vision, to radical generosity?

How does Jesus' statement in verse 10 relate to Zacchaeus?

Luke 14:7-14

—Philippians 4:19 CEV

[illegible]

—A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition, UMH 607

# Isaiah 58:1–12

**MONDAY**  
NOVEMBER 9, 2015

“Make your life a mission—  
not an intermission.”

—Arnold Glasgow

In this week’s parable, Jesus calls us to a lifestyle of humility as an act of trust and faith. How do the people addressed in today’s reading live?

What does verse 2 tell you about them? Why is that not enough?

As followers of Jesus, we get to give. We don’t give to get. Grace and love should be extended without the expectation of getting something back, yet there is a reward offered in today’s reading. What is it? And what behaviors prompt the reward?

Recall a time you were guilty of false humility. How was that different from times of genuine humility?

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”

—Jesus Christ





# It's What We Want *for You*, Not What We Want *from You*

Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6). Paul said, *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved...for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'"* (Romans 10:10, 13). Then Paul asks a powerful question: *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?"* (Romans 10:14–15a).

Over and over again in Scripture, we see that faith in Jesus really does come by hearing. Peter spoke to the crowd at Pentecost; those who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3,000 were added to their number that day (Acts 2:41). Then they *"devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:42–47).

Did you get that last part? Every single day people were coming to Jesus and being saved! They were sharing what they had and meeting one another's needs—and were praising God the whole time. They were in love! They were on fire! They were not just hearing but doing what Jesus said, and their joy, generosity and purpose were contagious! They saw the good their faithfulness was doing which motivated them to do even more good.

As pastors, that picture is always what we want for the people we serve. It's why we exist as a church and why we do the things we do. John Wesley said, *"You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work."*

That's the best part. You get to do good. You get to give. You get to bring good news. You get to make the world better for others. Through your response to Him and by submitting your finances to the Lordship and ownership of Jesus Christ, you get to be part of His mission! There is no better way to invest yourself or spend your life.

—Gloria McGee-Denton, *Pastor*



## Acts 4:8–21, 29–35

**THURSDAY**  
NOVEMBER 12, 2015

*"I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.' Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'"*

–Luke 16:4–7

The shrewd manager in this week's parable found a creative way to buy loyalty and security for himself, but his method cast a positive light on the master by representing him as gracious and generous in the eyes of the debtors. In today's reading, Peter and John were called to account for their own acts of kindness, but they also used the opportunity to point to Jesus as the One who heals and saves. Go through today's text and underline all the results that happen when God's people speak and act in His Name.

What kind of men were Peter and John (verses 13, 20, 29, 31)?

Peter and John were compelled to keep serving and keep talking about Jesus. Inspired by these leaders who put it all on the line for the sake of Christ, the believers responded with courageous generosity. When is it hardest for you to give courageously to God?

What helps you overcome any feelings of doubt or insecurity?

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

–Luke 6:38

**FRIDAY**  
NOVEMBER 13, 2015

2 Corinthians 8:1–15

“The word *believe* appears in the Bible 273 times, *pray* appears 371 times, and *love* appears 714 times. *Give* appears 2,172 times!”  
—Herb Miller

*“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”*

—Luke 16:8–12

What did the Macedonians give first? How do you think that affected their other acts of giving?

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What kind of people were the Macedonian Christians? The Corinthian Christians?

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As you read verses 14–15, how do you feel?

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Those who have more have more to invest and leverage for Kingdom purposes. Those who have less, have proportionately less to invest, but it isn’t justification for investing nothing. Generosity is something we can grow into. Prayerfully consider today how you might grow your personal investment in the work of Jesus.

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## Joshua 24:1–15

*"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.*

-Luke 16:13

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**SATURDAY**  
NOVEMBER 14, 2015

"People do not drift into good giving habits. They decide into them. The reason they decide is because someone asks them to decide."

—Herb Miller

Security, comfort, luxury, pride—financial resources can bring all these things, but they can become idols. It might be hard to know if you've chosen these things over God. When you get down to it, how much are your thoughts and time focused on getting or spending?

Joshua recounts years of God's provision and urges Israel to throw away all other gods and serve the Lord. He acknowledges that serving a God who asks us to give our very selves to Him and then trust Him through times of scarcity and praise Him in times of abundance may not be desirable to everyone. He urges them to choose now, today, once and for all, to serve the Lord who has already shown Himself to be faithful.

You can't serve Jesus and comfort, Jesus and pride or Jesus and money. Which do you choose?

*Luke 16:1-15*

—Philippians 4:19 (TLB)

The decision to give is not a checkbook decision; it's a spiritual decision.

[illegible]

# Deuteronomy 8:6–18

**MONDAY**  
NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Man: When I made \$2,000 a year, I gave \$200 to church. When I made \$20,000, I gave \$2,000 to church. Now that I make \$200,000, I can't bring myself to give \$20,000 to the church. But I want to tithe. Will you pray for me?

Pastor: Let's pray. Dear God, please make this man's income \$2,000 a year again so he can tithe.

"We either become emotionally attached to our money, or we become emotionally attached to the God who gives us our money."  
—Herb Miller

Honestly, where have your strongest attachments formed?

How much pride do you take in your ability to produce or manage? How much pride do you take in your home, your car, your clothes, your appearance, your travel?

How can you grow in and demonstrate gratitude for all God has given you to manage?

*"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."*

—Matthew 10:16





# More Joy

Stephen and I get a lot of joy when we give, when we help others, when we make a difference. You know what gives us even more joy? Seeing our children give and help others and make a difference. It is our job to raise children who give, serve and are a blessing. If it stops with us, it stops.

I like to think that my children were just born full of love and a desire to share it. But they weren't. When I recently asked them, "What have Mommy and Daddy done to help you be more giving toward people?" They answered, "You give to others, and it makes us want to give to others, too." It hasn't been what we TELL them. It is what we SHOW them. When we show them joy in serving, they get to show it to others. When we take the time to volunteer on Sunday morning or coach a youth basketball team or work at VBS, we teach them that giving ourselves is just as important as giving monetary gifts.

My greatest joy is seeing my children give of themselves to strangers, to friends, to family and even, on rare occasions, to each other. There is nothing they wouldn't do for someone truly in need. It is fun to see them get it—they're learning that giving is the gift that benefits everyone involved. The joy and pride in 8-year-old Andrew's face when he spends his Asbury Bucks on something he knows his sister will love and the happy tears in 11-year-old Kennedy's eyes when she blesses a stranger in the mall with the random gift of a bracelet. Wow! These are those moments when you can't help but stop time, breathe in the goodness and believe that anything is possible.

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Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for entrusting us with these amazing little people. Thank You for the people who pour into all of the children in our church. Please open our hearts and our ears to hear that which You wish us to know and to teach our kids. Help us raise them to share You with others. Lord, help us show Your love to all children. And thank You for using our children to show us Your love. Amen.

—Christy Tolar, *Member*



## 2 Corinthians 9:6–11

**THURSDAY**  
NOVEMBER 19, 2015

*"Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.' His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'"*

—Luke 19:20–24

Plant few seeds—harvest few fruits. Make few sales calls—get few commissions. Make more calls—get more commissions. Invest more effort—get more return. It's simple logic. At some point we must ask ourselves if we're really doing all we can. It's not helpful to envy another's ability to do greater good when we simply aren't living up to our own potential.

Read today's text a couple of times, then rewrite it as a personal encouragement to yourself.

What does verse 8 mean to you?

How might verse 10 look in your home?

The job of the church is to grow disciples by inviting people to support the mission and ministry of God's church by putting their faith in God. When people do that, they are rewarded with more joy, more peace, more influence, more ability to do more, and they are met with more gratitude and thanksgiving to God. When we're grateful and take time to count our blessings, we see more blessings all around us.



## Matthew 14:13–21

**SATURDAY**  
NOVEMBER 21, 2015

Do you have more month than you do paycheck, so much debt it seems impossible to get out of the hole? Are you struggling to keep cars, houses and jobs? If this is you, God knows what you're up against. He will not leave you nor forsake you, but He may not automatically rescue you from consequences of your own decisions because you are in a season of growth and seeking.

Dave Ramsey says the number one way to see a miracle in your finances is to give. Give something. Take a step that says you will not be owned by what you own because your heart, your treasure, your future belong to the King of kings and the Lord of lords!

This is an especially hard place to be when we wholeheartedly believe in the mission and want to support the spread of the gospel through the church. Today's reading assures us that even the smallest of gifts, placed in the hands of Jesus, can do wonderful things.

If money and time were not a hindrance, what good would you do?

*"No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you."*

—Deuteronomy 16:17



# 1 Kings 17:8–16

**MONDAY**  
NOVEMBER 23, 2015

God intended to use the widow to meet the needs of Elijah, despite the fact that she did not have what she needed to provide for herself and her family at the time. She clearly didn't feel she had enough to share and could not see how her meager circumstances could be useful to the Lord. After all, why would God send His prophet to a family facing their last meal?

What did God promise her?

What happened?

What promises has God made to you? How have you responded? What has happened in regard to those promises?

*"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?... So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

—Matthew 6:26–27, 31–33

In these words from Jesus, what is to be your job? What is His job? Do you trust Him to do it?

**TUESDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

2 Kings 4:1–7

Another widow, another prophet. Why is this woman upset?

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Who filled the jars?

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She was given more than enough to meet the demands of the creditor and to provide for herself and her son, but she had to first humble herself by seeking wise counsel and by seeking the help of neighbors. If she hadn't swallowed her pride, what would've happened?

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What impact do you think this had on her sons? Her future grandchildren?

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We have received a deposit of the gospel, along with resources of time, talent, money and influence. We are to use these to pass responsibility for the Kingdom from generation to generation, and the day will come when we, as God's people, are held accountable for our willingness to please Him. As we close this sermon series, "Get to Give" ask yourself what your stewardship decisions teach your kids, grandkids, parents, siblings, coworkers and friends about the God you follow. With that in mind, write a prayer seeking God's guidance.

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*"...what they already had was more than enough to do all the work."*  
–Exodus 36:7









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