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*Ephesians 3:16-20*

## REVIEW

- Week 1: Steward Our Days
- Week 2: Steward Our Finances
- Week 3: Steward Our Hearts (Gratitude)

## BECAUSE OF ALL THAT HE HAS DONE

### 2 Corinthians 8:9

<sup>9</sup>You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

- **Zacchaeus' Story** (*Luke 19:1-10*)  
Sometimes, we forget how incredibly blessed we are and how much gratitude we can express.
- **Paul's Life: An Example of Gratitude and Stewardship**  
*1 Timothy 1:12-17*

**Ephesians 1:3** All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

**Romans 12:1-2** And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup>Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

## AS WE EXPERIENCE CHRIST

- Gratitude grows, and He begins to change us.
- Our time, talent, and treasure flow out of a heart of gratitude, compelling us to act in love and obedience.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)** | <sup>14</sup>For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

## THE PRISON OF "ME, MINE, MORE"

- Christ saves us from selfishness.
- Our natural default is "Me, Mine, More."
- **Are you living in the prison of Me, Mine, More?**
- The world constantly fights for our hearts (*1 John 5:21*), but God calls us to contentment in Him (*1 Timothy 6:6-8*).

## PERSPECTIVE

## How do we stay grateful when life is hard?

- Fix our eyes (*Philippians 4:8-9*).
- Learn contentment (*Philippians 4:11-12*).

## STEWARD

- In light of all God has done for you, what does stewardship look like right now?
- Do you need to revisit the cross and what God has done for you?
- Let gratitude grip your heart, leading you to worship and transformation.
- Life is not about "*Me, Mine, More*." The Gospel is the antidote.
- God's generosity received, gratitude expressed, and generosity lived.

**Ephesians 4:1**- Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

## THE CARROT AND THE HORSE

The nobleman asked, "*Why the difference?*" The king replied, "*The gardener gave me the carrot, but you gave yourself the horse.*"

## CLOSE

1. Where is your heart today? Do you have the carrot or the horse?
2. Is there something you've allowed to sit on the throne of your heart?
3. Do you need a reminder of what God has done for you? Do you need to let him fill your heart with gratitude?
4. Has your perspective been tested? Do you need to refocus today?
5. Are you going to live in the prison of *Me, Mine, More*, or choose a life poured out?
6. Do you need Jesus today?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you from this message? Why?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 and Luke 19:1-10. How does Jesus' generosity challenge you to live differently? What can we learn from Zacchaeus' response to Jesus?
3. Reflecting on 1 Timothy 1:12-17, how has God's grace shaped your life? How can we express gratitude for what He has done?
4. How does the idea of being a "living sacrifice" from Romans 12:1-2 resonate with you? What does that look like in your daily life?
5. What are some signs that you may be stuck in the prison of *Me, Mine, More*?
6. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8. How does contentment in Christ free us from selfishness?
7. In what ways does the world fight for your heart (1 John 5:21), and how can you guard it?
8. Revisit the story of the carrot and the horse. Are your actions motivated by true generosity or self-interest?



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