

Spiritual Rhythms | Giving

#4: Stewardship: God Owns Everything

Matthew 25:14-30

Dr. Matt Cassidy ---- March 16, 2025

Thank you, Jason. We wanted Jason to lead us in that congregational prayer [for the youth mission trips] because he's one of our elders and both his sons are in Thailand, so we felt like he would be intrinsically motivated to pray and lead us that way.

Good morning, Grace. We are on our last weekend in our series focusing on the rhythm of being generous. We would love everyone to consider going by the welcome center and getting two little coins. One is an American minted penny, and the other one is a replica of a Roman penny. We're going to use those to, one, carry them around with us (or to drop and lose them somewhere), and, two, get a second set or a third set and then carry them around so that we can look at life as an opportunity to give, not get; to see that life has abundance surrounding us if we open our eyes to that.

And then another reason we're having you do that is to bring the coins back next week. We're having what's called a Mosaic Service. Think about it like the stages of the cross. It's an experiential worship time, and one of those stations will be making a commitment to learning how to become a more generous individual.

Some of you have asked how we are to give at Grace Covenant Church. We came up with a slide that shows ways to give at Grace—not just those four, but also in the lobby there are two little offering boxes that are on the walls on the glass side of the auditorium if you're wanting to drop off a check or cash (remember those days?). That's available too.

And before we go on, speaking of giving, I mentioned to you a number of weeks ago that my daughter had lost literally almost everything that she couldn't hold in her own hands to the Los Angeles fires when her apartment was burned. And she wanted me to read this to you, because it's a letter of gratitude. A number of people called or wrote or even gave resources to her and were praying for her. So, she said, "Please, read this ... please!" So, I said, "Okay."

This is from my daughter Carey who lost her possessions in the fire.

Dear Grace,

There is a saying that has frequently come to my mind in the past few weeks—“The darker the night, the brighter the stars.” This has been one very long, very dark night for me, but it has only confirmed something I have known my whole life—Grace Covenant Church is not just a bright star—it is a supernova. The outreach, support, and prayers mean a great deal to me. They have given me peace and calmed my fears. I am constantly reminded by you all that God is moving through this epic tragedy. Thank you for shining so brightly, Grace. You have inspired me to do the same.

Love,
Carey

As a dad, I'm very grateful for those of you who have been praying for her. Thank you.

My first two years in college, I was involved in amateur boxing. I'm not going to lie—I was in really great shape when I started. And I thought starting off wouldn't be a problem, that I was up for the first day or so. And I was wrong.

Warmups were like all the other warmups. We did bear crawls until someone started crying, and then we did five rotations with the medicine ball—that cursed medicine ball. And then you jump rope until you're sick to the stomach. So, I was keeping up with all the guys. And then the first day I was turned over by the head coach to the assistant coach, who specializes in jabs. It's the first thing you learn in boxing.

So, he told me, “Listen, if you get a good jab, you can win the whole fight with nothing but jabs. And if you have a great jab, you'll never get hit. So we need to focus on your jab.”

Another reason he was an expert on jabs was because he only had one arm. He was a Marine in Vietnam and lost his right hand, and all he had left was his left hand. If you can imagine losing in boxing to a one-handed man ...

Well, I know somebody who doesn't have to imagine that. Actually, it can happen, okay?

Anyway, here's day one after warmups. We put a tennis ball right here on the right side and made a fist. If that ball touches the ground, you're doing bear crawls the rest of the day. And you stand in front of this full-length mirror, and you just punch like this. That's a jab. You just stand there and punch.

And I didn't even have gloves on, and after forty-five minutes, now who's crying? And after five days I could not shampoo with this hand. I'm doing this ...

Week two he introduces the idea that punches start in the big toe and go through your legs and your hips and ultimately to the shoulders. So, a jab goes like this. And you're standing in front of that full-length mirror—without a glove, mind you—and stepping into it. And he says, “No, that's not how you do it. Get down and do this.”

And after forty-five minutes of that for five days in a row, I have to have my roommate carry me up the stairs in the dorm.

And I learned a couple of lessons in that experience, and I want to share them with you.

One, life is discipline. And discipline is doing things you don't want to do to become who you were meant to be.

The second lesson is, when you're starting a new discipline, it's excruciating. It's painful. And you can count on that. Do not be surprised.

And when we take those principles of life and transfer them to becoming like Christ in all of life, it means that there are aspects of our life where we're going to try to mimic being like Christ until our arms are ready to fall off. And then we start getting good at it. And then God is changing us in that area of our life to the point where we like being like Christ in that area.

And so, when we're looking at the challenge before us in the topic of generosity, we've asked Grace Covenant Church to rise in the tide of giving by one percent. And so, some of us involved with giving one percent more are strong in a lot of areas in our life. But maybe not this one area. And this one area can feel like it's your first week of boxing. It's going to be hard. It's going to be painful. And that's okay. It won't be all the time. You'll end up getting pretty good at it.

And today what I want to do is to teach a lesson on today's subject matter. If you grasp this, it's going to change and make sense of all your adventures and generosity. There are four truths that will cause you to look at life in an entirely new way. We're going to look at a single story that Jesus tells. And after that story, we're going to ask a whole different question about our lives in the area of giving and being generous.

The topic is a word called “stewardship.” And stewardship is managing the resources that God has given us for His glory. It is going to expose us to an entire life goal, a reason for our existence—faithful stewardship in everything.

Here's the story in Matthew 25. Listen, and then the big points will be put up on the screen. Jesus is telling another story about the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven. So, he says. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is going to be like this. A man was going on a journey, and so he calls his servants and entrusts his wealth to them. To one he gives five bags of gold (or talents). To another he gives two bags, and to a third, one bag, all according to their ability. Then he went on his journey.

"The man who received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five more bags. Also, the one with two bags gained two more bags. But the man who received just the one bag went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money in the dirt.

"After a long time, the master of those servants did return and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'"

Matthew 25:21

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

And this is the settling of the account. "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'" There's your life goal. " 'You've been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Now the man who had given two bags came. 'Master, you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'"

Matthew 25:23

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

So, to repeat it, “Then his master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’” That’s the purpose of life—to hear those words. “ ‘You’ve been faithful with a few things, and now I’m going to put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master’s happiness!’

Matthew 25:24-30

Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. “Master,” he said, “I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.”

²⁶ His master replied, “You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

³⁰ “And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

“ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

“ ‘And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness.’” Get him out of my presence. “ ‘...where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

There’s the story of the parable of the talents. And this is a lesson in stewardship.

There are four basic components in the theology of stewardship—four truths that, if we grasp them and believe them to be true, will change everything about how we see opportunities for generosity. It’s going to be good.

1. It All Belongs to God

It starts right here—first point. It all belongs to God. The doctrine of stewardship is about responsibility, not ownership. It’s stating the fact that God owns everything, all things. Everything in my life—my time, my experiences in this life, my talents, my wealth, everything—it all belongs to God. Since everything is created by God, everything is owned by God. It’s a pervasive theme throughout the Bible. We’re just given things, and they are entrusted to us. They’re not owned by us.

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Look at the themes. Some of you know these verses. In Psalm 24: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

Leviticus 25:23

The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.

Earlier in Leviticus they're talking about the nation of Israel, and God says, "The land is not to be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers."

Deuteronomy 10:14

To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.

Deuteronomy says, "To the Lord you God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it."

Psalms 50:10, 12b

For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills ... ¹² the world is mine, and all that is in it.

Psalms 50—some of you know these verses: "For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills ... the world is mine, and all that is in it."

Nothing subtle here. It's very clear. The first part of stewardship is knowing that everything belongs to God, everything in my life: my family, my experiences, my wealth.

2. Stewardship: Using What God Has Lent Us for the Kingdom of God

The second principle is stewardship. Stewardship is using what God has lent us for the kingdom of God. The parable starts with the end in mind. The first words are, "Again, the kingdom of God is like ..." The kingdom of heaven is going to roll out this way.

There's a purpose in stewardship. It's not just to be shrewd. It is to be focused on "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done." It's knowing that God's heart is in His kingdom expanding, and so our heart should be in that direction as well—to advance the kingdom of God. And now we're looking at all the opportunities before us, and they're all pointing in arrows to that glorification of God.

I use my stuff, my history of success, and my history of unsuccess, my talents, my ability to do math, or my inability to do math. Whatever I've been dealt by God, all of those are a means to (we can say) glorify God, but let's just say to make God famous. We're constantly looking for a vision of lifting up the reputation of God to our neighbors and to the nations all around the world.

And listen, it is a way of viewing all your life. I've been thinking all week along about people who I know who are famously generous. It's not about how much they have, but what they do with what they have. You can see them doing the math. You can sometimes hear them speak out loud. When they find out that somebody at work or at the gym or anywhere—maybe the next-door neighbor needs a mower or a mobile home—they're free to give it up because they believe *It's not mine, it's God's. And maybe, just maybe, this mower or mobile home can be used as a means of introducing someone to God or telling them about the glory of Jehovah.*

You find out that the neighborhood boy who's a sophomore and pretty cynical about life is failing Spanish, and you think, "You know what? In the sovereign plan of God, He's made me pretty good at Spanish and given me opportunities to live in countries where I was speaking Spanish consistently and constantly. Two hours a week? I could spend some time with that cynical little sophomore and maybe change his view of who Jehovah is."

It's all around us. What is your spiritual gift and how can you use it in God's church? All these things are gifts. All our life is meant to be seen as if we're renters, not owners. And the warning in the passages is to not be one of those renters that just lets the house and the yard go to ruin. We're asset managers, and our client is God Almighty. Let's give Him a great return on His investment in us and what we have and what we experience. It's all about that.

3. Good Stewards Are Trusted with More

Point one—it all belongs to God. That’s truth. Fact number two is that we’re supposed to be using God’s stuff to give Him praise. And the third point—you’ll love this one—is that good stewards are entrusted with more.

If you look at the passage, it says that the person who was given five bags of gold returns an additional five bags. So, when he gives an account, there is praise and the master says, *Listen, I trusted you with a few things, and so now I’m going to give you control and put you in charge over many things.* And then Jesus uses the same line twice for the point of emphasis. The one who was given two bags of gold doubles it, and he gives an account. In the story, God says to him, *Listen, you’ve been entrusted with a few things, and now I’m going to put you in charge of many things.*

And so, clearly, the point isn’t how much stuff you have that God has given you. It’s not about the talents that you’ve received. They’ve received according to their ability. The point of this story is the faithfulness with the things they were given. And with whatever they were given, they were proven to be trustworthy. There it is. A faithful servant proves they can be trusted with God’s possessions. They were found trustworthy. And so, because of that, God says, *Well, if I can trust you with this stuff, I’m going to give you some more.*

Paul emphasizes this principle in a famous passage. I’d love you to commit it to memory. It’s 2 Corinthians 9. And in this section of this letter to the Corinthians, he’s raising money for the Jerusalem church, because they’re suffering a dreadful drought. So, he’s going to these churches and he’s trying to motivate them with some of the biblical truths involved in stewardship. And as I read this, I want you to look and listen for two things. One, that Paul is going to insist over and over again that God has given you all that you need. And it’s from God to you, and it has a purpose—so that you can show that you’re trustworthy and give it out. You’ve been given a lot so that you can give some more. And if you give some more, look for the words “increase” and “enlarge” in what He’ll give you, so that you can give some more.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Look, here's the passage, 2 Corinthians 9. It says, “And God is able”—he's raising money here—“to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” Use it in every good work, just like it's written. “As it is written: ‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.’” They're making God famous now.

“Now He who supplies the seed to the sower and the bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

You've been entrusted with this so that you can be generous. He's going to give you more so that you can be generous in every occasion. You will be constantly looking ... so that you'll be constantly looking for occasions to make God famous by trusting Him and giving in every aspect of your life.

Listen: God wants us to grow stronger in our trust in Him. Some of you have heard the phrase “God blesses us to be a blessing.” It starts all the way in Genesis. You are blessed to be a blessing to other people. You can flip that coin over, and the other side says this: You trust in God to become more trustworthy. And so, He trusts you more.

Luke 6:38

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.

Listen, this is prevalent. It's throughout Scripture. In Luke, Jesus is talking and He says, "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."

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

In Proverbs it says—and this is just a principle in life—"Honor Jehovah with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

If God can trust you because you're giving to His cause, then He's going to give you more to give to His causes.

2 Corinthians 9:6

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Here's a passage that precedes the paragraph we just read, and it's about this very principle. "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly"—can't be trusted—"will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously"—because they're trustworthy—"will also reap generously."

When you line these verses up like that, you're probably hearing an echo of the prosperity gospel. And here's why—because these are the verses that that heresy quotes. And that heresy quotes these, not because the heresy of the prosperity gospel is a blatant lie, but because it's a half-truth. It's quoting this because that's the part that's true. But the motive makes everything. Shakespeare, right? The motive is everything. The prosperity gospel says to give so that you'll get back. And the motive is greed. It's all about me getting more. That's not what any of these verses are saying. These verses are saying, *Look, the constant drumbeat over and over again is to give generously so that you show yourself to be trustworthy so that you'll give more, so that you'll get more, so that you can give more.* It's a growing and trusting in God's goodness. And as you grow in that trust, He gives you more to be trusted with.

This is not foreign. We do this. We do this with our children as they grow in trustworthiness. We do this with friends or neighbors.

A number of years ago, Melinda used to drive a Suburban. And a Suburban is the largest vehicle known to man. We would lend it out to families when they took vacations occasionally, because you can fit two or three families in a Suburban. You need an intercom system, but everybody rides together. And so, we would lend it out to people when we got a chance.

And one of these families brought the truck back and pulled it into the driveway, and I'm looking at it, thinking, *What happened to our truck?* And he said, "Oh, we had it professionally detailed, and the tank is full."

"Oh." So, I swing both garage doors open and say, "Hey, anything else you want to borrow in here? I mean, we're going to be gone for a month in June. You can use our house. It needs painting." I mean, I trust this person, and I want to trust them with more. We do this.

It all belongs to God. Stewardship means using that with the purpose of the kingdom of God. And if we're trustworthy, God wants to trust us with more. It gets better.

4. Faithful Stewardship Leads to Eternal Rewards

The fourth fact is stewardship is that faithful stewardship leads to eternal rewards. See, the storyline, each one of those accountings, does not end with "and now you'll be in charge of more." Remember how it ends? It ends with, "Come share in your master's happiness. Come share in your master's joy" ... the kingdom of God. The kingdom of heaven is like you being

invited to share with a smiling Maker and Creator. *This is what makes me happy: you have made me happy by attaching your values to my values. This is treasured in heaven.* That's what treasures in heaven means.

In summary, stewardship means this: everything you have is on loan from God. You want to use it all up to make Him famous. And you'll be very glad you did. Stewardship is the truth that we invest in the kingdom of God, and we'll be handsomely rewarded. Those truths will change everything. You just stop and think about this. Think of the bigger reason, the deeper purpose, of stewardship in general. The purpose of stewardship is just a means of being transformed. It's a way that God makes us like Christ in all of life. There's something way bigger going on here. There's a purpose: that God is using the circumstances of life so that we see life differently. He wants to change us from the inside out. He's changing our hearts, is the point.

In a book on generosity, Tim Keller says, "The Gospel doesn't just teach us to be generous with our things; the Gospel gives us the power to change our hearts so that we want to be generous."

Stewardship isn't about giving away stuff; it's about giving away our entire lives and looking for chances to do that for God's glory.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

In the same paragraph, Paul is writing to the Corinthians, raising money for the poverty-stricken Jerusalem church. He says this—listen to the heart change: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion"—like you used to, right?—"for God loves a cheerful giver."

God is out to change our heart, to make us enjoy being generous. That's what He's looking to do. And being generous is the opportunity, the means, of making that happen. It's a heart change.

That's why C. S. Lewis said, "The only way to be really free is to be completely selfless" and focused out, seeing the world as God does. "That is why generosity is such a powerful force in the life of a believer. It is the antidote to self-centeredness and the key to finding true freedom in Christ."

Of course it's the antidote for self-centeredness, because instead of saying "me, mine"—greed—you're saying, *What is God's kingdom up to? How can I share this with the neighbor or the nations? Time, talent treasures, all of life ...*

Here are four truths that I want us to look at. By the way, these four truths, once you buy into them—I promised you at the beginning—will change the questions you ask. Because you'll stop asking, "How much do I give?" That will eventually become "How much do I keep?" That's when your arms and your legs don't hurt anymore. You go over here and you're like Christ in all of life. *Now I've got to be praying about how much should I keep, because I'm giving everything away unless You tell me otherwise.*

1. Evaluate Your Stewardship

Here are four applications to think about in the issue of stewardship. The first one is to evaluate your stewardship. Purposely look at trying to manage a portfolio, God's portfolio in your life. Manage everything that you experience, the good and the bad, everything you have: time, talents, treasure, family, all those things. And see how those can be used. How can they be given away for the kingdom of heaven?

When I was new to the faith in the eighties, it was common for people to say, "Listen, I can determine your commitment to the kingdom of God by looking at your checkbook and your calendar." If you look at the way you spend your resources and the way you spend your time, it's going to say a lot about whether or not you understand that it all belongs to God and that stewardship is about investing in the kingdom. Whoever is trustworthy gets more. And the fourth one is eternal rewards.

So, make an effort to sit down and evaluate your stewardship.

2. Be Faithful in the Small Things

The second one is to be faithful in the small things. The big point of the passage is that it wasn't the number of talents the men had received; it was what they did with them. So, don't worry if you find yourself saying, *I wish I had more talents like she has or could do what they can do*. God's accounting is fair. So, move on to what you can do with what you have.

3. Trust God in Your Giving

The third thing—and I love this one—is to trust God in your giving. I hope you heard the theme of our time together, that you're trusting God to be trustworthy with what He gives you. Trusting God—there comes a time when you're going to understand that this kind of a game. After looking at those passages about whoever has been given to will be given more, it starts becoming fun. And then you enter a phase of giving called sacrificial giving. And celebrating this wasn't actually my idea, but someone came up last week and said, "Hey, remember the time that we were asked to sacrificially give to this building in particular and to the Live Oak building, and we all had to make decisions that were life-altering? We could either miss a vacation or an upgrade on an automobile. We cancelled some things that we were subscribing to."

In our house we wondered if our kids were going to college. We probably should have asked them, but we just felt like if Paul said, *Look, the Lord wants you to give what He's leading your heart to give*, and we had a relationship with God, and Melinda and I are negotiating this, and we get together and we come up with a number that put our children's college fund on pause for a little while. Again, we should have checked with them, and said, "Hey, you're working through college now ... a lot ... all the time."

Sorry, I got distracted ... but the point is that it was fun, it was scary, and I'll say this. I have never one time regretted giving sacrificially ... not one time. And looking back, I might have given more. It's fun. The point is to trust God in your giving. There were times when we had conversations with God and said, "God, we're going to give this amount. You've got to get us out of this trouble that this is going to get us into." It's fun. It's a way of looking at life.

4. Live with Eternity in Mind

Fourth is to live with eternity in mind. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in my life right now on earth, as I would be doing this in heaven. Look at life with the perspective of the movie *Gladiator*. Remember one of the opening lines? The men going into battle might lose an arm or their life. And the line is, “Remember, men, this life echoes into eternity.” That is absolutely the point of the Bible saying that this life matters for eternity. Thy kingdom come is supposed to be the center spoke in the heart of my life that everything comes out of. Glorifying God, making Him famous, building His reputation, shout to the Lord as we sang, “Jehovah is God. I’m living for this.” Live for this. That’s the point. *Well done, my good and faithful servant. You’ve been a great steward. Now come on, come and share in your master’s joy.* And therein is the doctrine of stewardship. Grab it and see life in color. See the brilliance that’s all around, and enjoy its application in your life.

Malachi 3:10-12

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the flood gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Would you join me in prayer? I’m going to start by just quoting God about how desperately He wants us to get in this game, get in this ring, and become like Christ in this area. He says this—these are His words, not mine, out of Malachi 3. He’s saying, *Look, you need to trust in me.* “ ‘You bring the whole tithe into my storehouse, that there might be food in my house. You test me on this. You test me,’ says God the sovereign Almighty. He says, ‘And see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough in your little storehouse to hold it.’”

And listen, that's not all. “ ‘I will prevent the pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields from even dropping fruit before it is ripe,’ says God the sovereign Almighty. ‘Then all the nations will know’”—because you’ll be bragging about me— “ ‘ and will call you blessed, for yours will be the delight of all the land,’ says God the sovereign Almighty.”

Lord, I'd ask that You would bring to us in the next seven days a life-changing event so that we might give to be shown trustworthy, and that You would show Yourself, that You trust us even more; that You are the king of my heart and You are good. Oh, You're so good. You are a loving father that would desire us to grow in this area. I'd ask that You would give us this chance to show You who's king. You're king, and You are good, and we trust You with that.

God, thank You for the way You've blessed us, the way You've given us assets, the way You've given us hardship, the way You've given us stories of redemption; that You'd use our miserable little lives as the saying says: to show the splendor of Your grace.

Lord, I'd ask that Grace Covenant Church would be a church famous for its generosity and would continue in ways to bless others around us, so that our neighbors and the nations would know that You, God Almighty, are the ruler of the universe, the ruler of our hearts. In Jesus' name. And all God's people said, Amen.