

We conclude the fall sermon series, ***A Life That Counts***, with Dr. Baucom's sermon ***The Stewardship of Stuff***.

1. Sit quietly and close your eyes. Look around the place you live, see all your "stuff". Focus on something in your home that makes you smile each time you see it. Now imagine that you have experienced a fire, tornado, earthquake, or flood and all your stuff is gone. What would you miss most and why? What might you not miss at all? Inventory the stuff you would not want to lose. How does all this imagining make you feel? Why?

2. **Read and reflect on 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.** Sit and reflect with this rich passage for about 10 minutes.

- What does it say at first read about the stewardship of our treasure, our finances?

**Read verses 6-8.** Reflect on how it speaks of generosity. Sit with these verses and listen to what God might be saying to you.

- How generous are you with your "stuff"?
- How generous do you think those around you would say you are?
- What understanding do you receive concerning the *spirit of giving* for a child of God?
- Read verse 8; reflect on the understanding this verse brings to *want versus need*.

**Read verses 9-11.** Reflect on why these verses say we will be rich.

- How might you respond to God in light of the riches he provides for us?
- Why will we worship God with Thanksgiving, according to these verses?
- Spend a few minutes in the worship of thanksgiving even now.

**Read verses 12-15.** Reflect on *service* we are to perform. Sit with these verses and listen to what God might be saying to you.

- What will our service say to others about us and the life we have chosen to live?
- How will our service affect the community around us?
- Who gets credit for this *indefinable gift*?

3. Read the following passages. Reflect on the different responses of Zacchaeus and the Rich Young Ruler.

- **Luke 18:18-24**
- **Matthew 19:16-24**
- **Luke 19:1-10**
- How are they similar and how are they different?

- Who have you more closely identified with on your journey?

4. **Read John 12:1-7.**

- What does Judas' response say to you about Mary's choice to use her perfume in an unfamiliar way?
- How might this passage speak you about stewardship of your stuff?
- After reflection, how might Jesus' response give you a fresh understanding?

5. If God owns everything and we are simply his stewards, what do the following verses say about what God wants us to do with His "stuff"?

- **Matthew 25:14-30**
- **Proverbs 13:22**
- **Romans 13:8**
- **Proverbs 19:17**
- **Luke 12:33-34**

Talk with your IG about any new understanding that you have gleaned about how you will relate to the "stuff" God has entrusted to you.