

FULL LIFE | 3-6-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

Sometimes we treat God like a vending machine. We insert prayers or time spent serving Him and expect Him to give us something in return. It looks like this...*navigate to www.tinyurl.com/vendingvid*. When was the last time you approached God like this? What did you ask for? What is wrong with this approach? How should we approach God differently? Pray together simply thanking God for who He is. Don't ask Him to do anything.

READ: *John 10:7-10*

In this passage, Jesus refers to Satan as a thief. What three things does the thief do? Unpack this statement: *Satan desires to steal our progress, kill our connection with God, and destroy our destiny*. What does Jesus desire for us? What does it mean to have life to the full? What is the difference between full life and prosperity? How does full life weather life's storms? How can prosperity fail us?

READ: *John 10:11-13*

What is the difference between the good shepherd's actions and the hired hand's actions? Why does the hired hand run away? One way of looking at this parable is to see Jesus as the good shepherd, prosperity as the hired hand, and suffering as the wolf. Prosperity is to be well off in life because of positive circumstances and the accumulation of money and possessions. How do we look to prosperity to take care of our needs? In the parable, what happens when the hired hand (prosperity) sees the wolf (suffering) coming? What does the wolf (suffering) do to the flock? How does this prove that prosperity cannot take care of us? How would the good shepherd act differently than the hired hand? Why? How does the good shepherd empower us in suffering?

READ: *Psalms 23*

These are the ways the Good Shepherd provides for us. Which of these verses speaks to your life the most? Why? How does verse 4 teach us to walk through suffering? Does David ask God for anything in this chapter? What does he focus on instead? Reflect on David's confidence. Where does his confidence come from? Where does your confidence come from?

CHALLENGE

Consider how you have trusted prosperity more than the good shepherd to take care of your needs. This week, change the focus of your prayers. Don't ask God for anything. Instead, thank Him for what He's already given.

PRAYER

Good Shepherd, thank You for taking care of all my needs. No matter what I face, I choose to trust You. Anchor of my life, please give me the fullness of life that I need to weather the storms I face with confidence.

Written by John Grandy, Dalton Campus Pastor