

## Sunday February 19, 2023

### Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

#### Welcome & Prayer

So, join with us this morning to praise God, remembering David's words from Psalm 117:

*Praise the Lord, all nations!  
Extol him, all peoples!  
For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*

**Prayer.** Dear Father, From the time we wake in the morning, to the time we go to sleep at night we have so much to praise you for. We are surrounded by examples of your majesty, power and love. Your creation stares us in the face as we see the majesty of the sun and the rain, of plants and animals, the wonder of the bodies you have given us. You care for us, provide food and shelter, friends and family for us.

Yet, despite knowing all this, we don't always feel like acknowledging you. In times like this, as we struggle with sadness, we often think more about ourselves than about you. Forgive us, help us to return to you and remember your constant love, your promises to never leave us, to provide the best for us. We know that you will renew our hearts and souls, that through your Spirit we can have peace, that you will draw us close to you. Help us this morning not to be distracted, but instead to have clear heads and humble hearts, ready to acknowledge you, to come close to you & to learn of your purposes for us. In Jesus' name. Amen

#### Song – Heavenly Father, Beautiful Son - [Heavenly Father, Beautiful Son - YouTube](#)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Father, You loved me<br/>Sent Your Son to redeem<br/>Jesus, You washed me<br/>By Your blood I am clean<br/>Spirit, You've opened these blinded eyes<br/>And brought me to Christ</p> | <p>2. Father, You gave me to Jesus to keep<br/>And Jesus, You love me<br/>As a shepherd, his sheep<br/>Spirit, You've given me faith in the Son<br/>And made our hearts one</p> |
|--|---|

*Chorus: Heavenly Father, beautiful Son  
Spirit of light and truth  
Thank You for bringing sinners to come to You*

3. Father, You're waiting to hear my requests  
Jesus, Your loving open hand is outstretched  
Spirit, You're in me, You intercede  
And help in my need

#### Bible Reading – Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' <sup>18</sup> "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> "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?' <sup>21</sup> "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

## Announcements 12/2/23

**Focus for February – Vision.** *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:1) When we think about plans for the year it is important that they are God’s plans and not just our plans. So what is God calling you to do this year? How do we know it is God’s will and not just our own will? We all need to be prayerful as we ask Him to show us a vision of what He is calling us to do this year individually and as a Church.

**Talking Teen.** Presbyterian Youth and the Gospel, Society and Culture committee of the denomination are running a webinar on How to connect to your teenagers’ experience of social media. We’ll look at some of the blessings of social media as well as the risks, and give some practical ideas about how to help young people follow Jesus in this area of life. It will be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 7:30-9:30pm. You can watch it on your own computer or if there is enough interest, we could watch in the Church together. For more details speak to Jo or Stephen. Check out the Facebook Event for more info <https://fb.me/e/4zEwJeAjM>

**Small Groups.** It would be great if everyone could CONSIDER joining a small group this year for teaching, fellowship and Christian encouragement. We have groups for men, women and mixed, meeting weekly and fortnightly, at the Church and in homes, live or in ZOOM, weekly or fortnightly. Hopefully there is one that will work for you and your family situation. See Stephen or Jon for more details (or find last week’s email from Stephen!)

**Men’s Event | Saturday 18th February 9am - 12pm** Many thanks to those who joined our bushwalk yesterday. We enjoyed God’s good creation, we had an opportunity to reflect on God’s word and we experienced fellowship from God’s people. A great trifecta!

**Breaking the Silence Training** Top-up training is TODAY (12 – 12:30pm in the Church) for all those who didn’t need to do the full training last week. Please refer to email for those involved and RSVP to Liz Hyslop on [gehyslop@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gehyslop@optusnet.com.au)

**Children’s Worker (approx. 8-10 hours a week).** We are currently looking for a person who is willing to be our Children’s Worker from term 2, 2023. This is a paid position and is for 10 hours a week. It will involve overseeing our kids work, training our children’s volunteers, and helping, supporting and encouraging those who are involved in these ministries. For a full job description and for details of our remuneration package see Jon or Stephen. Applications close 1/3/23.

**World Day of Prayer.** Will be held this year on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. It has been prepared by the women of Taiwan and the theme is “I have heard about your faith.” At Swansea it will be at the Caves Beach Uniting Church from 11am. All welcome.

**Church Bank Account.** If you would like to support our Church financially, the best way is to prayerfully decide what amount you are going to give each week and then organise a regular direct debit to Charlestown Presbyterian BSB 062 829 A/c 1019 4850.

**Day Off.** Our ministers are always available in an emergency but Jon tends to take Thursdays off and Stephen Saturday so if you could avoid contacting them on those days, they would appreciate it.

**Camp Weekend.** We have had a tremendous response to our Camp over the weekend of March 3-5<sup>th</sup>. For those who are unable to join us we will be running all three of our services at their regular time. We will be a bit short staffed so if you can help out in the morning service with computer or morning tea, please see Stephen and for Sunday @ 6 there is a need for welcomer, computer, sound & supper, please see Jon.

## Bible Reading – Luke 12:22-34 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples: *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.* <sup>23</sup> *For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.*

<sup>24</sup> *Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!* <sup>25</sup> *Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?* <sup>26</sup> *Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?* <sup>27</sup> *“Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.* <sup>28</sup> *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is*

thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup> For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. <sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## Pastoral Prayer Points

**Pray for Turkey and Syria:** Pray for those who grieve the devastating loss of life. Pray for the injured and traumatised. Pray for those searching for survivors and for those who’ve lost everything.

**Pray for those in health:** Pray for them to protect the unborn, the elderly, and the most vulnerable.

**Pray for kingdom growth:** Give your Son the nations for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth as his possession. Let all the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of the Lord and of his Christ. Let the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Wee Waa.** Thank God for a newly married couple who are committed to the congregation; and for several toddlers and their siblings along with their parents, (some of which are single). Praise God also for the growth in the bridging group “Tea and Table Tennis” on Friday evenings. (16-20 out of 30 attend each night, the majority being “unchurched”. Thank God and pray for recent evangelistic opportunities through these relationships.

## Song – Jesus is His name

[Jesus is His Name - YouTube](#)

1. A light has dawned, shattered the darkness  
Heaven has sent the promised one  
Son of man, son of the Father  
The light of the world has come

3. The prince of peace, hope of the nations  
Justice and grace for rich and poor  
He will reign, ever exalted  
Jesus the risen Lord!

### Chorus

The heavens declare, angels proclaim  
Shepherds cry out, the Christ has come to save  
He is our light, he is our hope  
He is our gift of life  
Jesus is his name, Jesus is his name

### Alternate Chorus

So let us declare, boldly proclaim  
Sing and cry out: "the Christ has come to save"  
He is our light, he is our hope  
He is our gift of life  
Jesus is his name, Jesus is his name (repeat)

2. Immanuel, clothed in our likeness  
Humbled himself, to make God known  
Death he chose, paying our ransom  
Rising to claim his own

## Sermon – The Good Life or the God Life? - Stephen T

Every time I come back from Vanuatu; I am struck by how much I possess. You see when you go over there and live in a village with the locals you get to see how little they possess. They live in small homes. They own the bare essentials – a few pairs of clothes, some basic pots and pans and cutlery, a table and some chairs, basic bedding, a mobile phone, some have a freezer, but no TV, no car, no fridge, no microwave, no gym equipment, not much at all. But they are full of faith and full of joy and seemingly content with their life.

And for a fortnight or so I live out of a suitcase, so what you have to look after yourself is quite basic. And it reminds me that for 7 months I lived out of a backpack. Then for 3 years I was in a one room student accommodation, then a two-bedroom flat & now a four bedroom home. And each time I have moved I have acquired more stuff. If you like each stage of life, I have built bigger barns to store what I own. Because that is what the good life is all about isn't it? Having more of what I need. The one with the most toys win, don't they?

In fact, now we can't fit all our stuff into our homes! A recent newspaper article pointed out that the average Australian (not family but individual) spends \$163 per month on self-storage because they can't fit all the stuff they have in their 3 or 4 or 5 bedroom, double garage home. But around a quarter of customers cannot remember what is actually in their storage unit. And around 13% use them to hide their purchases from others.

Slide 2

Friends we are drowning in stuff. It's a sign of overconsumption. Actually, lets says what it really is, it's greed. And greed is harmful to our spiritual growth. For it makes us depend on things rather than on God. And it makes us want more rather than desiring to live simply on less. It makes us focus on the physical and not on the spiritual. Greed is a dangerous thing.

Let me put it out there at the very beginning, I struggle with greed. I could do with a bit more to look after my own needs and the needs of my family. I buy clothes each year that I don't always wear, I am swayed by the latest advertising campaign for the latest must have accessory. I am rich, incredibly rich, in the worlds eyes and yet I want more.

Slide 3

### 1. Greed (verses 13-15)

And in our passage today from Luke 12, *"Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" <sup>15</sup> 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**."*

Jesus had been teaching the crowds about the kingdom of God when someone came to him looking for legal aid. It didn't matter that Jesus had just been teaching about the danger of the Pharisees hypocrisy, the danger of being a Christian amongst non-Christian leaders and the need to trust in God's Holy Spirit no matter what was happening all around you. This man had only one thing on his mind, his parent's estate.

It just wasn't fair, he was thinking. My brother is getting more than he should and I am getting less than I deserve. It was for him a matter of justice. That was eating him away. And now he had before him a wise rabbi that might back his case & put pressure on his brother to be more reasonable with their parent's estate. But Jesus has more important things to do than to judge than between two brothers, one day he is going to judge the entire world & he had a more important topic to talk about than money, he wanted to talk about greed.

Slide 4

You see Jesus perceived that this man before him was more interested in getting something **from Jesus** than **listening to Jesus**. He wanted money, not godliness. He wanted to be rich in the things of this world rather than rich toward God. He wanted the good life not the God life. And so, Jesus warns him *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

Slide 5

Now before we take a good look at what that means for him, let's just consider what that means for us. All of us have come to Church this morning for a reason. We want something. We might want to worship God, to show our thankfulness for all that he has done for us this week. We might want a place of safety and

security for ourselves and our family. We might want our issues to be resolved, our questions to be answered, our problems to be solved.

But the most important thing we all need is to be open to God's leading. To desire to be more god like. In short, we should not be here to get something from God but to be changed by God.

Slide 6

And friends, part of that change is for us to see the danger of being greedy. So let me define greed. Greed is when I feel I owe myself something beyond what I truly need. (Repeat) And it may be the worst sin for us Australians. Because we live in a place that has a whole industry bent on redefining what it is that we need. And we live amongst a nation that craves the good life, that craves pleasure, that craves ease and we think if we had a little more money or a few more possessions then we would be truly happy.

The Roper Organization asked Americans who make \$22,000-\$40,000 how much they needed to fulfill all their dreams. The largest group said they'd need \$70,000-\$85,000. Yet when that same question was put to people earning over \$70,000, the largest group in that segment said they'd need at least \$150,000 a year, if not more. You get it? We are earning more than we have ever earned in our lives, we have a standard of living that is the highest in history, we are one of the richest nations in the world & what we need is a little bit more.

So, you and I need to be on our guard against greed. You and I need to believe, really believe that life does not consist of an abundance of possessions. So how do we do that? Well let's skip the parable for a moment and go to Jesus' teaching immediately afterwards.

Slide 7

*"Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes." Greed leads to worry. Greed can never get enough, worry is afraid it may not have enough. Not enough food, not enough clothes, not enough stuff. And when we do that, we are looking at ourselves or our future and not at our gracious God.*

Slide 8

*<sup>24</sup> "Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!" <sup>25</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? <sup>26</sup> Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"*

You get it? God takes care of the birds. God takes care of the flowers. He has set up the natural world in such a way that they will have all that need. And if he does it for the flowers and the birds that come and go so quickly how much more will he clothe those made in his own image? How well will he provide for his very own children?

Slide 9

*<sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

God has given us his very Kingdom. We are children of the King of Kings. And the children of the King have a different inheritance, they will not be given stuff that will rot or fade or devalue or be stolen. They will be given everlasting riches. And that is what we are to treasure. That is what we should eager desire. That is what we are to store up for ourselves.

Slide 10

You know when we were overseas in Vanuatu there were all these things that you might want to buy and bring back home – wood carvings, shell necklaces, bags and mats that have been weaved together from

palm leaves. But it is no good spending your money on those things if you can't get them through Australian customs. Similarly, we are here on this earth for such a short time why be greedy for the things of this world that can't be taken with us into the next world? Instead, our heart should be on the things of God. On the God life not on the good life.

Slide 11

So, the answer to greed then is contentment. To seek Gods' kingdom not to build our own little kingdoms. To take our worries and concerns to him and place them in his hand. And then hold his hand and ask him to guide us through life.

So, can I ask you are you content? Are you truly content with what you currently have? Or do you wish that you had something more. That your kids could have something that they currently don't possess. Are you happy when others succeed or do you think you are somehow missing out? Do you believe that you are currently in God's good sweet spot, exactly where He wants you? Completely happy with the place you have found yourself in? Do you treasure the things of God so much that you are overjoyed with what God has given you?

Someone said recently there are two ways to get enough. One way is to accumulate more. The other way is to desire less. Well for the Christian there really is only one way. Be content with what God has given. Treasure what he wants us to treasure. Desire less.

Slide 12

## 2. Greed, Goods (verses 16-20)

*"And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' <sup>18</sup> "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.""*

Jesus then tells us the story of a farmer who was after the good life. Now we don't normally associate farmers with the good life, do we? Maybe Hollywood stars, rich businessmen, sportswomen at the top of their game but not farmers. They have to cope with fires, floods and famine. They work long hard hours. But this farmer was chasing the good life.

And he wasn't scared to work hard for what he wanted. He went and planted the seed, he pulled out all the weeds, he worked hard all season in the rain and the heat and at the end of it all he spent weeks getting in his crop and it was the biggest yield he had ever had. A bumper crop. It was like he had won lotto. He has struck pay dirt. He was now set for life.

Slide 13

And he was smart as well. He didn't want any of his crops to go to waste. He wanted to cash in on his hard work so he organises a knock down and rebuild. He gets rid of his old smaller barns & builds bigger ones. This is his ticket to the good life. He can now be completely self-sufficient. He can take it easy from now. He has enough superannuation to last many years.

Now tell me do you recognise this farmer? Who does it remind you of? It's me, isn't it? Maybe it's you as well? Certainly, he would be a model Australian. One who works hard. Provides well. Is self-sufficient. Is thinking about the future and is getting to a place where they can enjoy life, really enjoy life.

So, we are eager to find out how the good life will turn out for this man. We expect Jesus to praise the farmer, to pat him on the back and say 'good on ya mate'. But he doesn't, does he? For there is a twist in the story, there is a sting in the tale. And instead, we hear God speak to this man, He tells this typical Aussie that they are a mug, a fool.

Slide 14

Now that's a bit harsh, isn't it? I would have thought he was wise, hardworking, prudent, not some foolish idiot. But God continues, *'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'*

It is an interesting statement by God, isn't it? The farmer doesn't get a pat on the back, more a knife in the back. He isn't commended but condemned. God says he is a fool because he didn't acknowledge God's good provision, because he was self-indulgent and because he was thinking only about his body and he forgot his soul.

Slide 15

Let's work through those issues one by one. Firstly, he didn't acknowledge God's good provision. God had blessed him, although he did not recognize it. It was God who provided him the talent and ability to have such a successful business. It was God who gave him the sunshine and rain and rich soil to grow his crops. It was God who had granted him the measure of health in order to keep up with what the business demanded. Yet, he never even tips his hat in God's direction, ever. He doesn't recognise God's good provision.

And secondly the farmer thinks that life was all about himself. In verses 17-19 we hear the farmer 8 times say the word I. I will tear... I will store... I will say to myself. And four times he says the word my. My barns... My crops... My grain. This man is a fool because he is thinking just about Himself. There is no thought for others. About how he could share part of his new found wealth with the poor, the needy, the homeless, the widow and the orphan. Let along with his workers or extended family. His only thought is about himself.

Which means he is thinking about just his body and not his soul. About this life and not the life to come. About the good life and not the God life. His heart was on the good life. His treasure was on material things and he failed to realise that these things just don't satisfy. And these things won't be worth anything when we die. It is not "He who dies with the most toys win." Instead, it is, "He who dies with the most toys still dies."

Slide 16

This man is a fool because his life hangs in the balance and one day he will have to give an account of everything that he has ever done and he is selfishly relying on material things. People are fools if they settle just for the good life and forget the best life is the God life.

The preacher one day went into the pulpit and found a note there with just one word "Fool". He thought for a moment & then said to the congregation, there have been many times I have received a letter from a congregation member which tells me his opinion but not his name. Never up until now have I received a note that has no opinion but only the person's name.

Friends during the COVID lockdown we have seen that life as we know it can change in an instant. During the Global Financial Crisis we saw how riches can come and go. Even in the last few weeks many of us have reeled at the news that John Macintyre the Presbyterian minister at Warabrook has been diagnosed with a brain tumour and given just 12-18 months to live. We don't know what our future holds. Our life might be demanded of us tonight. And when it does all our chickens will come home to roost.

Slide 17

### **3. Greed, Goods & God (verse 17)**

You see this farmer who thought he had a storage problem, actually had a spiritual problem. For Jesus concludes his parable by saying, <sup>21</sup> *"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

Slide 18

Kent Hughes summarizes it this way: *“We can enlarge our savings and build huge accounts to hold it all. We can plan our retirement so we will have nothing to do but change positions in the sun. We can plan our menus for the twilight years so that nothing but the finest cuisine crosses our lips. We can live as if this is all of life. We can laugh our way to the grave—only to discover at the end that we have nothing and are in God’s eyes fools. Or we can be rich toward God because we gave and gave and gave.”*

Friends being rich is not as important as being rich toward God. Having earthly riches is nowhere near as satisfying as having heavenly riches. The good life doesn’t stack up to being anywhere close to the God life. Which means we need to value the riches of God above all other riches. Value what we have in Christ and in the gospel more than you value what is in your homes or your wallets. We need to value grace over goods. Heaven over earth. Relationships over stuff.

Slide 19

So how do we do that? Paul gives us some practical tips in 1 Timothy 6. <sup>17</sup> *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”*

So I am going to do something unusual for me today. I command you not to be arrogant. Not to put your hope in wealth, in shares, in homes, in jobs, in your talents. These things don’t last. They are good gifts from God but the giver of the good gifts is far more important. Instead, I command you to put your hope in God. Remember the riches of his grace. Trust in His Word. Rely upon Him in prayer. Realise that whatever financial situation you are currently in, relational situation you are currently in, health situation you are currently in has been given to you by God for a reason. So, trust Him with it.

And I command you to be rich in good deeds. Be generous. Be willing to share. It is not yours anyway, it has been given to you to use. To provide for the needy. To expand God’s kingdom. To care for the lost. To look after those who are dependent upon you.

Slide 20

Over the years it has been the generosity of God’s people that have funded mission work throughout the world. It has been the willingness of Christians to give to schools and hospitals that have given many life and hope. As we give to the local Church, we are offering this community life and hope, compassion and care, fellowship and community. And when we do things in Jesus’ name, we are exalting Gods name. We are proclaiming God’s good news. We are growing God’s Kingdom.

And these are things that will last forever. They are helping people to be ready for not just this life but the life to come. And we are making deposits in the bank of heaven. We are enriching our relationship with God. We are ensuring that materialism is not a snare for us. We are proclaiming that greed isn’t good. And instead, we are relying on the grace of God. The riches of God. The example of God.

Slide 21

Let me conclude by quoting Watchman Nee. In one of his books, he says we approach God like little children with open hands, begging for gifts. Because he is a good God, he fills our hands with good things—life, health, friends, money, success, recognition, challenge, marriage, children, a nice home, a good job, all the things that we count as blessings.

And so like children, we rejoice in what we have received and run around comparing what we have with each other. When our hands are finally full, God says, “My child, I long to have fellowship with you. Reach out your hand and take my hand. But we can’t do it because our hands are full. “God, we can’t,” we cry.



“Put those things aside and take my hand,” he replied. “No, we can’t. It’s too hard to put them down.”  
 “But I am the one who gave them to you in the first place.” “O God, what you have asked for is too hard.  
 Please don’t ask us to put these things aside.” And God answers quietly, “You must.” You must.

Slide 22

You get it? You must hand everything over to God. Much of what you give to him he will give back to you. But not all of it. Instead, he will give you things that are much better. He will give you the riches of his grace and mercy. He will fill your life with good things and he promises to shower you with blessings for all eternity. So don’t be greedy. Do not rely on goods or even seek the good life. Seek God’s life. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. Hallelujah!

Let’s pray & as I conclude I am going to use the prayer once prayed to the US parliament by Chaplain Peter Marshall. *“Forbid it, Lord, that our roots become too firmly attached to this earth that we should fall in love with things. Help us to understand that the pilgrimage of this life is but an introduction, a preface, a training school for what is to come. Then shall we see all of life in its true perspective. Then shall we not fall in love with things of time but come to love the things that endure. Then shall we be saved from the tyranny of possessions which we have no leisure to enjoy, of property whose care becomes a burden. Give us, we pray, the courage to simplify our lives. Amen.”*

## Song – Take my life [Take My Life – YouTube Video](#)

### Verse 1

Take my life and let it be  
 Consecrated Lord to Thee  
 Take my moments and my days  
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my love my Lord I pour  
 At Thy feet its treasure store  
 Take myself and I will be  
 Ever only all for Thee  
 Ever only all for Thee

### Verse 2

Take my voice and let me sing  
 Always only for my King  
 Take my lips and let them be  
 Filled with messages from Thee

### Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold  
 Not a mite would I withhold  
 Take my intellect and use  
 Every pow’r as Thou shalt choose

### Chorus

Take my hands and let them move  
 At the impulse of Thy love  
 Take my feet and let them be  
 Swift and beautiful for Thee

### Verse 4

Take my will and make it Thine  
 It shall be no longer mine  
 Take my heart it is Thine own  
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

**Closing.** <sup>31</sup> *But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. (Luke 12:31)*