

"ABUNDANT LIFE OVERFLOWING"

*"The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.
I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**." John 10:10*

How are you during this strange time? Do you feel overwhelmed? Or bored? Do you feel like you're in "survival-mode" because of so much going on? Or like you've lost something core to your life and don't know quite what to do? Regardless of which extreme you may feel in these days, Jesus is inviting us to a previously unimaginable opportunity. What Jesus is inviting us to is indiscriminate to any war, tragedy, sickness, or circumstance. Jesus says, the reason I came is to give everyone "more and better life than you ever dreamed of" (John 10:10, MSG). What Jesus is offering as life **to the full**. Jesus is fulfilling the famous "The Lord is my Shepherd" Psalm, where David says:

*"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;
my cup **overflows**." Psalm 23:5*

Did you catch that? Even when enemies are present, the one who trusts in the Lord *still* has a life that "overflows" - in the most unimaginably positive sense. Put it in today's language, Jesus basically says, "Forget a glass half-full or a glass half-empty kind of life. Here's a glass **overflowing** type of life!" Not pessimistic or optimistic... **full!**

In times like ours now, when fear and destruction are *abounding* around us, God actually is writing a quite beautiful and alternative story in and for us - **He's giving us the opportunity to life that grows more full and abundant in Him**. The fear and death that accompany the coronavirus are enemies sent from the "thief." But even in the presence of a global pandemic, Jesus is saying that life can actually be *increased*, but only through Him. And even in the presence of fear, isolation, and extreme social distancing, Jesus is saying that our experience of life can dramatically *overflow* with *more joy and more purpose and more fulfillment*, even in these times. Do you believe that? Do you trust that? For a Christian, The resurrection of Jesus gets the final word, not any enemy, not any virus. Life has come. Even this can be a season of **abundance**.

*"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to **abound**. In any and every circumstance,
I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, **abundance** and need.
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:12-13*

Overflowing in hope because of His grace,
Pastor Steven



QUESTIONS:

1. If you could describe your life today in one word, what would it be?
2. Name your enemies today.
3. How do you see abundant life emerging in the presence of them?