

# ENTITLED

## DAY 1

***As long as you see yourself as an owner entitled to the fruit of what you own, you're going to live an entitled life.***

*Do you agree with this statement? Why? Why not?*

**READ** Psalm 26:1 and James 1:16-17.

What do these verses say regarding ownership? All of us have abilities, gifts, time, influence, intelligence, etc. Where do these come from?

***Everything we have and all our abilities and giftedness have been bestowed (freely given) to us by God.***

*Do you agree with this statement? Why? Why not?*

In James 1:16 we're instructed not to be deceived.

*How can we be deceived regarding ownership or authorship of our abilities, gifts, time, influence, intelligence, and other qualities we may have?*

*How might understanding and acknowledging these truths shift us from a sense of entitlement to an attitude of stewardship with a servant's heart?*

## DAY 2

**READ** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

**CONSIDER** the question Pastor Paul posed in this weekend's message:

***What would change in me if I no longer focused on what I'm owed and lived by the conviction that I owe God everything?***

*If we owe God everything, how should we live?*

*What kind of people should we be?*

**READ** John 13:14-16.

In Jesus', we've been given a beautiful example of living a life which honors and owes everything to God. **READ** John 12:26.

## DAY 3 - gratitude

**READ** Colossians 3:15-17.

***"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.  
It turns what we have into enough, and more."  
M. Beattie***

In other words, **gratitude unlocks the peace of Christ in our hearts, which is the fullness of life.**

Recently, Pastor Paul challenged us to be thankful for ten things each day. *If you're participating in this challenge, what surprising things have you noticed and for what have you given thanks? Did you notice a shift in your attitude and/or perspective? In what way?* **CONTINUE** (or begin) giving thanks for ten things every day.

**COMMIT** to do this every day until New Year's Eve. **CONSIDER** writing down (in your journal or on slips of paper) the things for which you're thankful. **PLAN** time individually, with friends, or as a family to read through your **thankful notes** on New Year's Eve.

## DAY 4 - humility and service

**READ** 1 Peter 5:5-7 and Luke 22:27.

The essence of humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself. It's about thinking of myself **less**.

*How do we go about thinking of ourselves less?*

**READ** Philippians 2:3-5.

***Who is the focus in these verses? What is a practical way in which to value someone and look to his/her interests? In Luke 22:27, how does Jesus describe looking to the interests of others?***

Without humility our service becomes self-seeking (hoping for returned favors, accolades, or recognition) and brings us back to living an entitled life. Service and humility are hopelessly intertwined.

*What comes to mind when you think about being asked to serve others?*

*What about serving at Jacob's Well? In your community?*

*What thoughts keep you from doing so?*

*Are they thoughts and attitudes fed by an attitude of entitlement?*

**WRITE** out Philippians 2:3-5 and keep it with you this week. Today and for the remainder of the week, intentionally **ASK** God to open your eyes to specific ways you can serve others. As you go through your day, **BE** mindful of their needs.

*Can you serve the person behind you at the check-out line with three tired kids and a huge load of groceries by allowing him/her to take your place in line? How can you serve a family coming to Jacob's Well during the holiday season (maybe for the first time) and make their experience a good one? What can you do to serve **your** family?*

## DAY 5

All is right in the world and in our hearts when we come to worship God as He is and for who He is. When we bow down before God and worship Him, there's no room for entitlement, pride, or ingratitude.

**READ** Psalm 147.

**WRITE** a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God today.