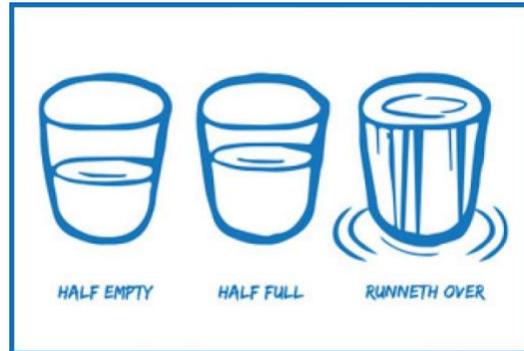


Abundance or Scarcity?

Phil 4:10-23



Background: We spend much of our lives consumed by what we lack and defined by what we don't have. Not so Paul! Whether he 'has' or 'has not', Paul lives in the abundance of God's provision. So as we come to the end of this letter (written from a Roman prison), we too must ask ourselves – are we living in the fullness of God's abundant supply or the lack of our present needs?

Sermon Text: Phil 4:10-23 (ESV)

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² 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. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
- b. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

2. Sermon questions (pick 3)

- a. What good news did you hear from the service Sunday?
- b. Do you tend to see “abundance” in terms of prosperity and comfort (the gifts) or in the abundant contentment of a relationship with the good giver? Explain.
- c. 4:13: Joel said, “We are abundantly strengthened to do all the things that are God’s priorities for us.” Respond to this statement. What does this look like in your life? What might this practically mean for you this week?
- d. 4:18-20: Would you say that your prayers are focused on your needs or your wants? Are they focused on God’s priorities or yours? (A good prayer to continually pray of course is the Lord’s Prayer which helps us focus on his priorities first.)
- e. Ultimately, are you living in the story of abundance or scarcity? One of the primary evidences is whether you have a generous spirit or not. Are you known as a giver? Moving forward, where can you become more generous?