

## AVELEIGH'S SEASON OF INSPIRATION WEEK 10 OF 12

March 17, 2017 Second Sunday in Lent

**SERMON; THE OVERFLOWING LIFE**

**TEXTS: 2 Kings 4:42-44 p.394 & Psalm 23: 5c**

“You fill my cup to overflowing.” (NCV), “You give me more than I can hold.” (ICB)

“My cup overflows!” (NIV)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Voice 1: Our Lenten journey has begun.

Voice 2: Let us follow the example of Jesus who ...

Voice 1: listened for the voice of God in the wilderness,

Voice 2: followed the leading of the Holy Spirit

Voice 1: and resisted temptation.

Voice 2: Jesus is the Bread of Life.

All: Let us feast on him during this Lenten season.

### Prayer of confession

Almighty God, we so often try relying on ourselves instead of you in times of trouble. But you are the source of our strength. Embrace those who suffer from illnesses of mind, body or spirit with your strength and healing presence. Comfort and encourage those who grieve. Help resolve the conflicts in our lives — with family, coworkers, neighbors. Our deepest longing is to follow you, and yet we fail to live as you command. Help us not to hide from conflict, but allow it to shape us so that we might truly become more faithful disciples. Amen.

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**PART ONE: 2 WAYS TO APPROACH LIFE**

**1. A SHORTAGE MINDSET: I'll never have enough and never will.**

Bible words: Lacking, Wanting, Need

**THE FOCUS: on my limited resources**

**THE RESULT: my overwhelmed life**

**2. A SURPLUS MINDSET: God has more than I'll ever need**

Bible words: Abundance, Abounding, Plentiful

**THE FOCUS: God has more than I'll ever need**

**THE RESULT: my limitless resources**

**PART2: WHAT'S MY CUP?**

**1. MY CUP IS MY LIFE**

“On the last day of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds: ‘If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! Everyone who really believes in me will have rivers of living water flowing out of their lives.’” John 7:37-38 (NLT)

**2. YOUR OVERFLOWING LIFE IS BEING FILLED BEYOND CAPACITY WITH AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF GOD'S GOODNESS.**

I am the holy God, who rescues you. For your own good, I teach you, and I lead you along the right path. How I wish that you had obeyed my commands! Then your success and good fortune would have OVERFLOWED like a flooding river!” Isaiah 48:17-18 (CEV)

**PART THREE:HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE AN OVERFLOWING LIFE?**

**1. STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS EVERY DAY.**

Jesus: “I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay connected to me . . . you'll produce a lot of fruit. But you can't do anything without me!” John 15:5

. . . I've told you this so that you'll be filled with my joy. Yes, your cup of joy will OVERFLOW!” John 15:7-11 (NLT/TLB)

## **2. STOP COMPLAINING AND START BEING GRATEFUL.**

“In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing . . .” Philippians 2:14 (NLT)

“Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all God has done.” Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

## **3. STOP COMPARING, AND START BEING CONTENT.**

“It’s healthy to be content, but envy will eat you up.” Proverbs 14:30 (CEV)

“It is better to be content with what you have than to always be struggling for more. That is like chasing the wind.” Ecclesiastes 4:6 (NCV)

## **4. STOP BEING STINGY, AND START BEING GENEROUS.**

“Remember this: A stingy planter will only reap a small crop. But anyone who sows generously will also reap generously. So, each of you should give serious consideration to what you want to give God, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver. And you can be sure that God is able to bless you with all his grace, so that in all things, at all times, you will always have all you need, and you’ll ALSO OVERFLOW so you can give to every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

**Prayer: Lord You are our Good Shepherd, you lead us from the overwhelming. May all our lives always be overflowing. Amen.**

**FOUR FOR THE ROAD:** 1. overwhelmed to overflowing. What did you do when you went through a tough time in your life?

*“On the last day of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds: ‘If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! Everyone who really believes in me will have rivers of living water flowing out of their lives.’”* John 7:37-38 (NLT)

**2. The Greek word for “believe” in the verse above includes the idea “to trust in” and “to rely upon.” What is the key to receiving God’s overflowing life according to John 7:37-38?**

**3. Read John 15:5 and 15:7-11. Discuss what God says about the importance of staying connected to him and why.**

*“You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!”* Haggai 1:6 (NLT)

**4. In what ways are the statements in Haggai 1:6 above true in our lives today? How have we planted much, but harvested little? How have we eaten but are not satisfied**

