

Sean in Iraq video clip

Life That Overflows

I. The Image of Love in Creation

Nature – Red of Tooth and Claw

The Image – Tending, Serving, Loving

A. The Human Project

Gen 1.26 Then God said, “**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.** And let them have dominion ...” 27 So God **created** man in **his own image**, in the **image** of God **he created** him; male and female **he created** them.

B. Jesus – The Door to Overflowing Life

John 10.7 So Jesus again said to them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 **I am the door.** If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**¹

The THIEF goes after the sheep

Steal – Something very valuable,

Kill – The sheep and eat them,

Destroy the evidence – Mess up the Structure

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

AMP I came that they may have *and* **enjoy life**, and have it in abundance (to the full, **till it overflows**).

MESSAGE I came so they can have real and eternal life, **more and better life than they ever dreamed of.**

NLT-SE My purpose is to give them a **rich and satisfying** life.

¹ NET Note – more than one would normally expect or anticipate.

Exceeding expectations -- It's an invitation. No judgment on failed tries! Judgment on failing to try to innovate.

II. Investing the Image (Abundant Life)

Parable of the talents!

Matt 25.13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and **entrusted to them his property**. **15** To one he gave **five talents**², to another **two**, to another **one**, to each according to his **ability**. Then he went away. **16** He who had received the five talents **went at once** and **traded** with them, and he made five talents more. ... **18** But he who had received the **one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money**. **19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, ... saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' **21** His master said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.**' **22** And he also who had the **two talents** ... **24** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, **I knew you to be a hard man, ... 25 so I was afraid, ... 26** But his master answered him, '**You wicked and slothful servant! ... 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29** For **to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30** And cast the **worthless servant ...'**

² ESV Study Bible – the equivalent of about **20 years' wages** for a laborer. At \$15/hour ± **\$600k**

Abundant Life

In the **Spirit** -

Identity as a Son of God

Gender Issues

Kept in Peace

Economically; Creatively; Impact on World

Beauty

Satisfaction

In the **Soul** – Mind; Will; Emotions

Family; Relationships & Friendships

Body

Health; Energy; Strength

1 Thess 5.23 Now may the **God of peace** himself **sanctify you completely**, and may your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

AREAS WHERE WE ARE **OFTEN ROBBED** – Thief

Finances --

Debt; Laziness (unaware of money as spiritual)

Family

Confusion or Righteousness, Peace, Joy

Communication of Affection

Health & Energy

Let food be your medicine!

Movement; Vitality or Energy

Shake off the Fear and Step into Risk!

III. Turning Death Around!

John 14.6 Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

Not by moving mountains, Splitting the earth, Lightning bolts, Plagues; Not by being Rich & Powerful, Not by being Poor & Outcast, but by making His life a gift!

John 10.17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. **18 No one takes it** from me, but **I lay it down of my own accord.** I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

In His gift of DEATH, HE defeated DEATH.

A. A New Beginning in Baptism

The baptized can use death to condemn sin! Freedom, not necessity becomes the basis of ABUNDANT LIFE!

Rom 6.3 Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized** into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were **buried** therefore **with him** by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in **newness**³ of life.

5 For if we have been **united with him** in a death like his, we shall certainly be **united with him** in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was **crucified with him** in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have **died with Christ**, we believe that we will also **live with him**.

³ L&N **καινότης**: the state of being new and different, with the implication of superiority —

The NEW LIFE begins with an act of freedom – Jesus going to his Passion, converting the use of death for us all!

Gal 5.13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only **do not use your freedom** as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.** **14** For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

B. Inseparable Life! (the GIFT)

Luke 9.23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Rom 8:34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. **35** Who shall **separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

NONE OF THESE THINGS CHANGE OUR NATURE AS SONS!

36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God** in Christ Jesus our Lord..

WE CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE REGENERATIVE GENEROUS LOVE OF THE CREATOR!! BY NATURE WE ARE REGENERATORS.

It’s the courage to move forward. It’s the invitation into the shared life of the Father and the Son!

It’s the expectation of **Uncreated** Out of this world, Overflowing Life!

1 John 1.1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked

upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ... 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed **our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Begins with Baptism.

Nourished by the Body and the Blood.

1 Cor 11.24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, **“This is my body which is for you. ...”** 25 ... **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. D...”** 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you **proclaim the Lord’s death** until he comes.

Made Alive by the Holy Spirit!

John 6.63 **ESV** It is the **Spirit who gives life**; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Rom 8.11 **ESV** If **the Spirit** of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH GETS BETTER, GETS TOUCHED BY LIGHT, GETS TOUCHED BY LIFE!

YOU SHINE, YOU OVERFLOW...

We live Ecstatically (outside of ourselves) and we co-create with God!

This is love, joy, peace, patience, etc. This is life, this is prosperity of soul, this is freedom from stress, debt, strife.

Holy Spirit, Come and fill us with LIFE!

Failure is not an Issue Love is THE Issue!