We Are All Reaching

November 1st, 2026
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OPENING QUESTION

What's something you've found yourself 'reaching for' lately that you thought would make life feel a little better? (It can be anything - more sleep, a vacation, a promotion, etc.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mark 9:30-34
Acts 17:23,27
Matthew 6:21
John 3:16

KEY TAKE AWAY(S)

The question is not whether we are reaching, but whether we are aware of what we are reaching for.

- **Generosity is a heart issue, not just a money issue.**
  - True Christian generosity flows from gratitude because God gave first. When we talk about generosity in the Church we tend to talk about money because Jesus teaches us that our treasure and our hearts are connected.

- **Everyone is reaching for something.**
  - Everyone is longing for, pursuing, desiring, or chasing something. We are designed to reach by God, but our reach was meant to be directed toward Him.

- **The heart reaches first, and the mind and mouth follow.**
  - What we think about, compare, desire, and eventually speak often reveals what our heart is truly chasing. Noticing where your mind tends to wander may reveal what you are reaching for.

- **Reaching for the wrong things produces comparison and robs you of gratitude.**
  - When we reach for greatness, status, approval, or superiority, it destroys gratitude.

- **Reaching for our own greatness makes us hard of hearing toward God.**
  - When our desires become too loud, they drown out the voice of Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. **Sean stated, "We give not to get; we give because we're grateful." How does gratitude for what God has given us change the way we think about generosity, trust, and surrender? (John 3:16)**

2. **If someone took a deep dive into how you spend your time, money, attention, and**

emotional energy, what might they conclude that your heart treasures the most right now? (Matthew 6:21)

3. **"The question is not whether we are reaching, but whether we are aware of what we are reaching for." How can you tell when you are reaching for God versus reaching for something else to satisfy what only God can? (Acts 17:27)**

4. **Where do you see the desire for "greatness" - to be noticed, respected, successful, or important - showing up in your life? (Mark 9:30-34)**
    a. **How might that desire compete with the way of Jesus?**

PRACTICE

The "What Am I Reaching For?" Check-In

This week, pause three times a day (or take note when your mind begins to naturally wander) and write down what you find yourself thinking about or turning your attention to. It could be a variety of things: something you're worrying about, something or someone you're comparing yourself to, something you're craving or wanting, someone's approval, status or success, etc.

At the end of the week, reflect on your notes and consider the following:

- What pattern do I see?
- What does this reveal that my heart may be reaching for?
- Is this becoming something I'm worshiping or trusting when I should be worshiping and trusting God?

A helpful addition to this exercise: Each time you notice your mind wandering or you take time to examine what you are turning your attention to, take an extra minute to write down at least one thing from God that you are grateful for.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for the blessing it is to have desires and ambitions that help guide and shape me. Please help reveal to me where those desires and ambitions may not align with or bring me closer to You. I pray that in all situations, You would be the one that I reach for and give my full attention to. Thank you that You are the provider of all that we need and that Your way is greater than our own. Amen.