

Harris Creek Baptist Church  
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Series: 7 Deadly Sins of Suburbia  
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## Entitlement

Luke 14

Amen, Amen! Alright guys! So, I am, you know, one thing people say all the time when they come afterwards is ‘wow, I didn’t realize how tall you were’. Almost like I’m lying. Because I say it all the time, right. I’m 6’7” tall, like that’s past the threshold of normal. And there’s some things that aren’t like super fun when you’re this tall. Like folding up in the back of a sports car for example. Not the greatest experience to be honest with you. I don’t love to fly because American Airlines give you; they make those seats for about a max of 6’4”. So 6’7” means you’ve got to just somehow, you know, kind of sit up the whole flight.

So I’m flying from Seattle to DFW the other day and I’m in coach, always coach. I’m sitting about six rows behind bulkhead. Bulkhead is that front row of coach. You have a little bit more room, almost like an exit row. And I’m, that’s where I want to be always. And I’m about six rows back folded up in a seat there and the plane take off. 30,000 feet in the sky it’s, you know, turned off the seat belt lights and you may move about the cabin. The whole entire row of bulkhead, that front row with the extra legroom, it’s empty, no one’s there. So, like a grace, like a gift from the Lord, you know. So I’m thinking, I’m going to stand up and I’m going to go stand up and I begin to make my way and I see the flight attendant. So, you know, hey if it’s okay you know I’m gonna sit in one of these seats I saw. Nobody’s there you know. And he comes up and he just says, sir you know everyone needs to sit in their assigned seats.

That doesn’t make sense to me because we’re about to move you know, across the country, a couple thousand miles and this entire row is just going to sit empty. And I don’t understand and I don’t really like it when things don’t make sense to me. But I just go back to do the walk of shame, back to my seat. But then what happens next is another flight attendant comes up with someone else, walks him to the front of the plane there in coach and says, ‘sit down’. She says you can sit here, that should give you some more legroom. Dude was like only 6’2”.

I’m like this is not fair. This is not. I have been slighted. I felt like there was an injustice, I was a victim. You know, they did me wrong. Like how did I get in this spot? And I begin to think about all of the ways that I just got taken advantage of. Like this is a terrible situation for me to be and I feel like I’m entitled to a logical response. I feel like I’m entitled to an explanation. And then I feel like I’m entitled to being frustrated because I didn’t get what I wanted. Now think about this, I’m in a tube full of over 100 people, going 600 miles per hour, through the sky, they’re carrying me and my luggage over 2,000 miles to my home on this tube, there are people who are there to serve us, they give us free peanuts and sodas and such and in that situation I have found something to complain about. I have found something to be frustrated about and it was born out of what I felt entitled to.

Now I don't know if you've every been in that situation, but that's what we're going to talk about this morning, is this word entitlement. Entitlement, we're moving through this series, the Seven Deadly Sins of Suburbia. Well, one of the seven on the original was pride. Entitlement is just a more focused version of that sin. Entitlement, there's a lot of overlap. Like comfort kind of bleeds into entitlement. It's the things that we feel we're owed. What we feel we deserve.

So this is where we get to do a little dialogue. What do we feel entitled to? What do you feel entitled to? You can shout it out.

(audience) Comfort.

(JP) So we feel entitled to comfort, like plenty of legroom. I feel that, what else?

(audience) Health.

(JP) We feel entitled to health, like we're gonna wake up and our body works.

(audience) Time.

(JP) We feel entitled to time, we're gonna be able to get it all done.

(audience) Food.

(JP) We feel entitled to food, like we're gonna go in that fridge and there's gonna be plenty there to eat. To go in the pantry, there's going to be some granola bars in there. What you say?

(audience) Money.

(JP) We feel entitled to money, like we're going to have what we need even like a paycheck because we did the work we deserve that the worker deserves his wages. The scripture says the worker is owed their wage.

(audience) Safety.

(JP) We feel entitled to safety.

(audience) Salvation.

(JP) Feel entitled to salvation, like God owes us.

(audience) Love.

(JP) You feel entitled to love, like God surely you have somebody out there for me. And not just someone out there for me, but when I'm in it, it needs to work and if it doesn't God, you feel slighted.

(JP continues) We feel entitled to parking spaces, we feel entitled to jobs, we feel entitled that when we show up to church that we're going to make it inside, amen, people out there in the lobby. We feel entitled to our car working, we feel entitled to our child making the team, we feel entitled to them getting playing time, we feel entitled to a particular neighborhood or style of vehicle or kind of degree. You owe me, like where is this going?

There's all kinds of expectations that we've set in this life that we feel entitled to, all of you. That's true for every single one of us. There are entitlements that we're carrying with us that we

don't even see that we don't even realize. So I'm going to tell you a surefire way to know for the rest of your life what you feel entitled to. Okay, this is how you can know what you feel entitled to for the rest of your life. What do you complain about? Whatever you complain about, that's what you feel entitled to. The more you complain, the more entitled you are. These two things go hand-in-hand.

Out here in the suburbs we have this little thing called the Next Door App. And if you know what it is, it's pretty entertaining because you can see all the things that people complain about; dogs barking, churches shooting off fireworks, street lights that shine too bright, somebody that didn't mow their grass, somebody that left their trash can out, there's always a bobcat somewhere like these bobcats running wild you got to be careful out there, HEB is too crowded, this isn't the Woodway I moved to it's changed. You want to know what people feel entitled to, you just go read the Next Door App because this is, and it's going to show you complaints point to what we feel entitled to.

Now everybody, when I say that somebody, somebody, one of you is thinking yeah, but there's something's that we should complain about. We justify, yeah, but everybody who complains feels justified in their complaint. And I'm just telling you, your complaints will point to what you feel entitled to. So in this series, Seven Deadly Sins of Suburbia we talked about where that little line seven deadly sins comes from.

Two weeks ago a monk made this list and it's been revitalized throughout history and we're replacing the list. Isn't straight from the scripture, if you will, so we're placing what are the ones, the modern versions of these seven deadly sins. We said they don't kill you to that you cease to live, they kill your faith, they kill and hinder and hurt your relationship with God.

And so two week ago we talked about busyness, Mary and Martha and Jesus' interaction with them. Today we're talking about this idea of entitlement. And you know I have, I'm in this really challenging spot this morning because I think entitlement is so much just the air we breathe. Like we are so into it and so far from where we should be that if I was to appropriately paint a picture of what needs to change, it would feel really daunting.

I liken it to every now and then we'll go to campus and camps will have something called a ropes course. And most of the ropes courses I've see have something called the leap of faith. And I'll just describe it to you, but basically you're harnessed in for your safety but you climb a pole and you stand o the top of that pole. And as you stand on the top of that pole you know there's a bar way out there and you have to jump from where you're at to that bar. And it feels like this daunting task, like you'll never get there.

And at some point in the leap of faith as kids do this, they look down and realize how high they are. And their fear comes in and they say, I can't do it, I'm gonna climb down. Right where we're at, right now, we're so far. Like we are so entitled we're swimming in it. Like it is so much a part of everyone of us and we begin to read the scriptures and we just glaze over these passages because we're like, that's just too high of a bar. That's too far. And somehow, we have to jump from here to here. And all I can do today is effectively get you to look down to see how far we are from where we need to be in the scriptures.

I'm going to be in Luke chapter 14. My fear, my concern is that we're going to settle for a counterfeit version of Christianity and be fine with that our entire lives. And I just don't want to

do that. I don't want any of us to do that. As we move through this passage, we're going to look at what entitlement is, what it leads to and how to change it. It's two things happening in this passage, there's a historical count of Jesus like he's a historical figure, He's walking the earth, He's going to place and interacting with people. Then, within this historical account of Jesus, Jesus tells a story called the parable. A parable is a story to illustrate a point. That's why he would, it's like an illustration, it's like talking about being on a plane if you will and you know feeling entitled to a front row seat with more leg room, that Jesus would tell these stories to illustrate a point.

What's happening, the historical event of Jesus there in verse one is He goes to a prominent Pharisees' house, which is interesting because we know we think of the Pharisees as a bad guy. Well they've invited Jesus over but they didn't invite Him over because they like Him, they invited Him over to test Him. And the way that they tested Him is it was the Sabbath day, at the time it was Saturday not Sunday, but then it was Saturday. So it's Saturday, they're to do no work and what they've done is they've taken this sick man and placed him by Jesus. He has dropsy or edema, meaning he's swollen his body is storing fluid and they place him right by Jesus to test Him, to see if Jesus is going to heal him. This is a merciless act. It lacks compassion, it's selfish, its targeting Jesus and Jesus being filled with compassion heal the man.

And then says, you wouldn't take care of something that you owned or created or you were in charge of it was up to you. And then he begins to see people jockeying for position at the table because in this day, you know a host would have a party and whoever was closest to the host would be in positions of honor. It would mean something. And so people would get there early and they'd set their bible on the chair or they'd lick the knife or something. Like hey that's my cough on the rope, that's mine. And then they get up; they were trying to get their position of honor. So He tells this story when he noticed in verse 7 how the guest picked the places of honor at the table.

He told them this parable once to illustrate a point. So you're going to read this on a deserted island. What's the point of it? What do you walk away with? What's your takeaway when someone invites you to a wedding feast? Do you not take the place of honor for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited? If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, give this person your seat then humiliated you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited take the lowest place so that when your host comes he will say to you, friend move up to a better place. Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests for all those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

So that's in the bible. How should that change the way we live? Like can a Christian ever be like I want to get the best spot? Like can they ever go to the Phil Wickham concert? Like go in, like their bibles on the front row. Like can we ever do that? Can we ever say no I want the position of honor? I want the best place I can. Are we ever like if you're just reading this what would your takeaway be? What would we change about our lives from this textbook?

Jesus said it, the Holy Spirit preserved it for a couple thousand years so I would read it today, your ears were to hear it, it would penetrate your heart and it would change something about you. What does God want to change about you? From this text, what's he doing? Should we ever take the first, the best spot maybe so that we can give it to somebody else, yeah, maybe so that we can serve someone else with it.

### *1. Entitlement is focusing on what you deserve*

My first point is, entitlement is focusing on what you deserve. Entitlement, so to define it is focusing on what you deserve, you being hyper aware of your rights. For these guys they felt like they deserved the place of honor. Like that was their right. We talk a lot about rights that we are owed. So as Christians you and I are to use whatever God, whose sovereign, has entrusted us. To serve others, this is kind of Christianity 101. You living out your faith, you've trust in Jesus, His Holy Spirit is in you and now everything changes for you. You begin to see all of these things that you have access to through the lens of how can I use those things to serve others.

Philippians 2:3 says, **'do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, rather in humility. Value others above yourself.'** Now that's one of those where you're standing on the pole you're looking at the bar and you're like that's too far. And most of you've seen that verse that's a lofty ladder to climb to do nothing. What can I do Lord, nothing out of selfish ambition. Surely He didn't mean that. That was so far, we're so far from that do nothing out of selfish ambition. I don't think we realize how much we do out of selfish ambition or how we do just enough to feel like we're good. We spend our lives trying to put ourselves in places of honor.

You may be like, I don't know if I really do that. No you do. It's why you dress the way you dress, it's why you drive what you drive, it's why you live where you live, it's anything that you can, it's the letters behind your name on you business card or your email signature, anything that you can find honor in so that people will know they need to honor you. We do that for a long time.

I've had a meeting on Tuesdays. It's like a three-hour meeting and it ends in a lunch. So six of us would always go to lunch. We'd pile up in a Tahoe and one of the six of us at the time was 76 years old, he's 81 now. 76 years old. So I would always, you know that when you're taller people say hey you take the front you need legroom. A little known fact, the legroom can be just as much in the back because that seat moves, but anyways we'll talk about that later. But I always go to him. I'm like hey you take the front but he was, he's just you know insist on getting in the care and climbs to the third row. Nobody wants to sit in the third row, but he'd always just get in and he would climb to the third row, ever Tuesday.

I got to thinking about this. I'm like he knows something I don't know. You know it's almost like he knows that he's going to meet God soon and that he's just storing up treasures with God, that's he's going to be able to enjoy forever and ever and ever and ever. It's uncomfortable in the third row. I do not have a comfortable solution for you, okay I don't. You need to know that as we're going to kill entitlement, discomfort kills entitlements. I don't have a comfortable application for you.

People will come up all the time and they'll talk about racial diversity. This is kind of a hot topic right now. How can we be more racially diverse as a church? I'm like, you know, what's not super racially diverse? Woodway. McGregor. Like if you really want to solve this problem, you could trade houses with someone in a more racially diverse community. Just trade them houses. I'm not gong to trade houses I worked hard for that. I know you deserve your house you

worked hard for. It's what you deserve, sure. I don't have comfortable solutions for you. I'm just letting you know we're really far from where we need to be, like really far. Not just a little bit off. It's the air we breathe, it's like everything, and it impacts everything about us.

Verse 9, **'if so the host who invited both of you will come and say, give this person your seat then humiliated you will have to take the least important place.'** He says, **'whoever wants to humble themselves will be exalted. Whoever wants to exalt themselves will be humbled. Whoever wants to humble themselves will be exalted.'**

Here's how. 1 Peter 5 says, **'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.'** He may lift you up the way that Jesus says brother James says it, God show favor to the humble again. He says God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble. This theme is repeated throughout scripture that God opposes the proud. Sometimes I'll meet with people and they're like man, I just feel like God's not for me. He's not with me, he's not helping me. Seems like God's against me.

First of all, God is for you because of what He did for you through His Son Jesus Christ. What He accomplished on the cross and the empty tomb shows you that God is for you. Secondly, in the midst of that reality that God has given you everything through Jesus, there may be some pride and entitlement welling up that has placed you in this world in the opposition of God. **'So humble yourselves therefore under the might hand of God so that in due time He may lift you up.'**

I think we can feel like nothing is going our way. For entitled people it rarely feels like anything goes their way. There's a lot to complain about all the time and you're sitting in disappointment. And your disappointment isn't real because it's like I don't understand why can't I sit. And that you know you're frustrated that you have to sit in a seat that you chose and paid for. And you cannot sit in a seat that you did not pay for. And it's not fair, and it's crazy, but to us it kind of makes sense. Kind of like would that make sense, but it's not my seat that airlines just doing what they said they do.

## *2. Entitlement leads to disappointment*

Entitlement leads to disappointment. That's my second point entitlement leads to disappointment. Man that is so true. It always does. Every disappointment you've ever experienced comes from your expectations and entitlements is the most dangerous form of expectations. It's the highest platform from which we fall because expectations say I expect, entitlements say I deserve, I deserve. This is what I deserve, I deserve a promotion, I deserve a marriage, I deserve healthy children. It's not just a missed expectation it's an injustice.

For they expected to sit near the host and now they have to sit in the back. And they feel entitled to a better spot. And they feel slighted. Entitled people are perpetually frustrated, they are not thankful because here's why. You cannot be thankful for what you feel entitled to. You just can't. You cannot be thankful for what you feel entitled to. So entitled people are some of the least grateful people that you will ever meet.

Like I haven't thanked God for a roof or a bed to sleep in. Sometime my paycheck hit the bank this week and I didn't even say thank you. I just expected that it would be in there. My refrigerator has food for a month in it. If we couldn't get to the grocery store for a month and we were trapped in our house for a month we would live. I didn't even think to thank God for that not one time.

Could you imagine trying to describe our lives to like someone in an indigenous tribe? Like without electricity? They've never, I mean these people they're still out there. You stumble upon someone who's never used electricity or anything. And then there they are and they just walked miles to a spring to get you water to sit near a fire maybe to make you some sort of tea. There you are, sitting around the fire and you're trying to take so they say;

How do you get water like how far do you have to walk to get water?

You know my bedroom, here in the kitchen here and there or if I want to go to the bathroom I could do that.

It comes into your home?

Yeah

Like hot and cold water comes in?

Yeah, we got like sinks and stuff, faucets yeah, hot water.

So how do you get it hot? Like do you have a fire in your house?

Yeah, we got a fire in the house. It's really just for looks though because they like to sit by it when it's cold, don't really need a fire. We have a hot water heater, you know.

Oh and so does the hot water heater keep you warm when it's cold?

No, not really. Like it just keeps the water hot. We have central air and heat. We have a thermostat.

What's a thermostat?

It's like this thing on the wall. It basically tells it what temperature to be in there.

Wait, what? So you keep your food cold with the thermostat?

No, we got this other box. It's there, it keeps...it's different because it would be too uncomfortable if it was that cold in the home. So we got this other bot. It's called a refrigerator and we could put food in there.

Would you keep your horses warm with the thermostat?

No, I don't really have like horses.

Donkeys?

Not really our thing. We have cars.

What's a car?

It's this thing and it takes us places.

So where do you keep the car?

We keep the car in a garage.

What's a garage?

It is kind of like a house, but for my car.

You have a house for your car?

Right? It's crazy! Crazy! A lot to be thankful for. Do you know why we're not thankful? Because we have a lot to be thankful for, right? Our abundance has killed our gratitude. You don't need to feel bad about having a lot. You need to change for not being grateful. And you don't need to feel bad for having a lot. Lord said all good things come from God. God gave you a lot, it's awesome, don't ever stop being grateful! You tell Him, no, you ask Him to take anything that you're not grateful for. You cannot be grateful for what you feel entitled to.

Guys, I'll tell you something, just a secret to life. Grateful people always win. Entitled people always lose. Entitled people will lose with an abundance of things. They can't be grateful for any of them. They always expect more. Entitled people always lose. So what should you feel entitled to? Better question, what should you be grateful for?

Verse 12 He goes into another parable that I'm going to tell quickly because it has a lot of overlap. **'Then Jesus said to His host, when you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brother or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'**

So in both of these parables, in fact in the next one He's about to tell there's a party. The question that I want to put before you is what is your role at the party? So if this party is just a metaphor for life, if this party is a metaphor for the world, if this party is a metaphor for your existence on earth that's the party. What's your role at the party? Is it the host or is it the guest? Are you there to be served or are you there to serve.

### *3. We change entitlement by changing our perspective.*

My third and final point is we change entitlement by changing our perspective. We change entitlement by changing our perspective. Are you the host or are you the guest? You are the servant, you're the one walking around with the plate of hors d'oeuvres asking people if they're comfortable and how you can serve them. The scripture makes it abundantly clear that is your role at the party. That you, we have to understand our role is to serve. This is step one of changing your perspective, understanding that our role is to serve.



Luke 13:30 one chapter prior to this one, **‘indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.’** This is clear in the scripture, one of those lofty goals that he says, like surely that can’t be right. I can’t, that can’t be what he means to say.

In Africa we were in Rwanda and sharing the gospel with children on the streets and I had this bag of candy. And they saw that I had candy so they all run. It’s just like this mob and it turns violent. One kid throws another kid to the ground and another one slaps another one. They’re just mobbing me trying to get the candy. I’m with the interpreter and so I say the last will be first and the first will be last. So the interpreter says it. He says it, keeps repeating it. And when they understand, the second it clicks, all of a sudden they just run away from me. Like as far away from me. Now they’re fighting for who’s further away from me.

One guy gets behind another guy and the guy throws him to the ground. You know I’m like okay, this turned on me. Like stop, right! But they’re doing whatever they can do to get what they want. Don’t we do this? Don’t we read the work and think okay how can we manipulate this to get our way? Is there a system? How can we work the system? To change entitlement we have to change our perspective.

Second thing, we change our perspective is we have to live for eternity. We’re tempted to view this world as our playground to experience as much pleasure as we possibly can. That is not the right perspective. That’s a great Atheist worldview; it is not a Christian worldview. The Christian worldview is this is a limited amount of time that you have to serve as many people as you can serve. That’s the Christian worldview.

A Biblical worldview; it’s very different. Its two ends of a spectrum of an Atheistic worldview, which says, this world is your playground, experience as much pleasure as you can in it. Christian worldview; this world is a limited amount of time; it’s a waiting room until the new heavens and the new earth for you to serve as many people as you can serve. There is nothing here that you will give up in the name of Jesus that you will regret. Nothing! Nothing!

One questions was asked last week, we did the Q&A. How do I store up treasures in heaven you serve people in Jesus name? You do things for people who can do nothing for you in return. Verse 14, **‘although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’**

To change entitlement we can change our perspective. Entitlement is focusing on what we deserve as a Christian with a Biblical worldview. We understand all we deserve is hell. We sinned against a Holy God. Anything good that God would give us is much more than we deserve, the hell we deserve. A good God at an extremely expensive cost to Himself has given us everything through His son Jesus Christ. We have to maintain that perspective the disciples when they walked with Jesus they’d always ask the same question. They asked him nine times in the gospel, which of us is the greatest? Who’s the greatest? Who can sit at your right and you’re left in glory?

In Mark 10 He says, **‘you don’t know what you’re asking.’** You’re not going to be able to suffer the way that I will suffer. In fact, he blatantly shares the gospel. He says, here’s the deal

I'm going to go to Jerusalem, they're going to kill me. You know He lays it all out for them. Everything is to come. It's really the first time Jesus say's okay guys you got to understand this. He says you know those who are regarded rulers of the gentiles exercise their authority over them. They lord it over them. He begins to say this to them and their high officials exercise authority over them.

They're like yeah the Romans he was not so with you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. That's one of those verses we read and we're like surely that's not what He means.

I hope you see this theme. It's being repeated in the scriptures. And just because there's no one around you that really lives, it's true. Doesn't mean you shouldn't. The gospel kills entitlement. There's no room for it. The gospel is the story of the King of the Universe, the Creator of all things. Becoming a servant and humbling himself even to the point of death on a cross.

He made himself like a servant for you and through Him we inherit all things. Philippians 2 says this, **'Jesus who being in very nature, God did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross!'**

So what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? Is this not the hole in our gospel? In Woodway, Texas? In McGregor, Texas? Did we just believe everything around this except for this part? Do we cut this part out of our Bibles that to really be a follower of Jesus is to sue everything that God has given us, to serve others. Because that's what Jesus did. That's what our example did. Our King, our Savior a Messiah, the Christ that's what He did. So we practice gratitude, it's the last thing we do to change our perspective. Practice gratitude it's practice it's a discipline.

Every morning I wake up and I write down five things I'm thankful for as a discipline. Feel free to steal that if that's helpful to you. But whatever you can do to practice gratitude ask people near you this week, am I a grateful person? Does gratitude mark my life?

In summary, entitlement is it's focusing on what you deserve. If you want to focus on what you deserve, focus on separation from God that's what we deserve. Entitlement leads to disappointment, it always does. Entitled people are some of the most depressed people you'll ever meet and changing entitlement requires a change in perspective.

The same trip in Rwanda we were there to train pastors in the government on conflict resolution. So we were teaching for four days at this kind of conference center, which was this out door like open-air place. You could see the major differences between government officials and the pastors. The government officials will come in these tailored suits and shiny shoes, elaborate flowing dresses. The pastors would come in barefooted, holes in their clothes, their suits were way to big, cinched together with the belt, just bit, gap in between the two. As we were teaching, it was the last day and we were there. There was a couple individuals that stood out and so one was this lady. She would wear these every day just these really bright colored flowing dresses

with trains and she always had some sort of headwear on. A hat made of feathers that were high and she would get there but she would have somebody save her spot. Then she would sit front and center and her hat would block the view of anyone behind her. When it was hot she'd have these people fan her. She was just a diva. I don't know how else to say that. I don't know, I'm sure she was deserving of some honor or something. I don't kw, but she had gone to her head a little bit.

Then there was a this pastor who was just a servant and he overflowed with joy. He was so kind. He was serving everyone and I watched him every day. He would let everyone else sit down and then he would find the least desirable seat. He would take it which was always directly behind the lady with the hat. So he would just let everyone sit down and there was this hold behind the lady with the hat. He would sit in that spot where he couldn't see the stage. But he would listen and take notes intently.

On the last day we did this illustration where we drew one person. It was completely random, except it wasn't random because there's a God. We drew one person to win a prize. Out of everyone there, and this was a big deal. The prize was a week's wages so it was a cash prize. It was valuable and everyone's really excited. We draw a name, truly like just according to the sovereignty of God. We draw out this lady. So we give her two envelopes. We're illustrating something.

We give her two envelopes and everyone applauds. She stands up; she bows for winning, randomly. She opens the first envelope and it's a week's wages. They didn't know, they just knew it was a valuable prize. Everybody's going crazy, like wow. And she's just smiling and glowing like YES I did. Then she opens the second envelope and it says, now give it to the person behind you. Like the Lord I'm in, the Lord you tell me right. It was weird. He of course tried not to take it and he just lowered his head. She had to give it this guy.

I don't know what the reckoning looks like but I'm telling you there are people on earth building palaces. Who will hand them to the servants of God in eternity? That's gonna, I don't know what it looks like. I just don't. But I just remember that moment learning something really important. That ultimately in the end God's in charge of who gets what forever and ever and ever and ever. He says these things and I'm telling you just because you were here today. You got belike oh I didn't know what you meant. That the last will be first. I didn't know it was supposed to be some metaphor or something. I didn't know. We don't have really far from where we need to be. I want you just to take a minute. I'm gonna pray. I'm gonna give you a little bit of space in that prayer for you to ask a very important question. God, what am I entitled to? What am I entitled to right now? Where has complaining ruled my life? Where have I felt slighted by You? Where do I feel like you've done me wrong?

Father would you show us that in Your kindness and Your mercy and Your sovereignty, would You speak to us now. Would You show us that each of us, every on of us, where we've been entitled and it's just been normal for us for a really long time. Will you convict us accordingly like would you begin to change that?

As they pray I'll talk to you for a second and just say God, there are sins that I feel like I can stand up here and say with integrity. Like hey follow me as I follow Christ. Then there are sins that I read about that I know, that I have embraced and this is that second category for me God. So would you show me where I'm missing it? Just pray. You pray, you talk to Him. This is your time. Stay focused, don't worry about the person behind you or in front of you. Talk to God, keep talking to Him, focus. Talk to God even if you just say the same thing over and over. Lord show me where I'm entitled. Show me where I'm entitled. Show me where I'm entitled. Show me where I'm entitled. In Jesus name, amen.