

## Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

It's November. Can you believe it? My wife Jennifer is already itching to get the Christmas tree up! However, I have a rule I live by. No Christmas tree until after Thanksgiving. Why you ask? My human nature tells me I deserve what I have; my flesh tells me I want more. Without a thankful heart and understanding of where my blessings come from, my flesh can take over. And when my flesh takes over come Christmas time I look and act a lot more like Scrooge than Tiny Tim. So this month I want us to take time to cultivate a thankful heart to prepare our hearts for not only the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ but prepare our hearts to continue to live and love like Jesus Christ.

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### Monday – What we have

The Pastoral Staff has been challenged to read the book, "The Hole in our Gospel" written by the president of World Vision, Richard Stearns. I highly recommend it. In the book Stearns writes that if your income is \$25,000 per year, you are wealthier than 90% of the people in world. If you make more than \$50,000 congratulations you are in the top 1%. Let your spouse know they married super rich!

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Command (that is a strong word) those that are rich (that is you, don't make excuses it is you)... What do those words make you feel? Where do you find your hope? How has God provided for you? Are you generous with what you have been blessed with? Take time to thank God for his blessings and provisions. Pray that you too may be a blessing to others so that what you have will not hinder the thankfulness of your heart but rather cultivate a heart of gratitude.

### Tuesday – What they don't have.

Of the 6.7 billion people on earth, half of them die each day. 25,000 die each day from hunger. There is not enough space on this page to talk about this.

Read James 1:27-2:4. Who are the orphans in your circle of influence? What are you personally doing for Christ to them? I encourage you to take time. International Justice Mission is a human rights organization that helps victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Read some of their stories to help you understand the world.

### Wednesday – So Don't Worry

Read Matthew 6:25-34. All that I have and do is passing through my head. How about you? I have a form of atheism. Would you agree? There is more of thankfulness faster than worry. What is your prayer today? Take time to draw near to God and lay down your burdens.

### Thursday - Recap

Read 1 Corinthians 13. This past Sunday the Church of Elk Grove made a difference in the lives of many stories of hearts that were changed and lives that were saved. Take time to remember those stories. Think of your prayer series take time to think: What did you learn? How did you grow? How? If not, why? What is one thing you would like to study?

### Friday – This Coming Sunday

This coming Sunday is Baptism Sunday. We are celebrating the decision to be baptized. Today I encourage you as they step forward to declare their faith in Jesus Christ and resurrection. Pray for the hearts of people who are in need of a series of change that God would work in their lives. Pray for them to God's love and His work in their lives.