

# The Courageous Life

Pastor Steve Lee  
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**Eccl**  
**11:1-5**

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.

If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

**Eccl**  
**11:1-5**

He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.





**Luke**  
**12:16-2**

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain

laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

**Luke**  
**12:16-2**



## **David Gibson**

*(Living Life  
Backwards)*

Here is wisdom you will not hear anywhere else: take the best of what you have and the best of what you are and give them away. Hold them out in open hands to God and to others. Worldly wisdom builds bunkers and barns to prepare for disaster. Biblical wisdom instead throws open the windows and doors of our homes and builds schools and hospitals and churches, and sees rich Christians become much, much poorer than they might otherwise have been.



## David Gibson

*(Living Life  
Backwards)*

... You'll know you're doing it if it costs. The way to begin to do it is to find the things in your heart that you think you cannot do without and give them away. Some of us hold our money very tightly. Panic and fear sets in when we see the savings dwindle. You can begin to pry your fingers open if you give money away, and as you give, you become rich to God. Others find it is our time. "I need 'me' time," we say. "I'm an introvert. I have to be alone to recharge." Actually, what you will find if you



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Backwards)*

start having others in your space is that you cope. You will not need an ambulance. The world does not end. You survive, and as you give to others who are more needy than you, as you die to yourself in the process, you will find that actually new life is growing in your heart, the kind of new life you weren't expecting or even looking for. The horizons of your world begin to expand. The things you think are most important begin to change.

**Mark**  
**8:34-37**

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"



## **Dave Goetz**

*(Death by  
Suburb)*

“To penetrate deeper in the experience of Jesus Christ,” writes Jeanne Guyon, a sixteenth-century Christian mystic, “it is required that you begin to abandon your whole existence.... You must utterly believe that the circumstances of your life, that is, every minute of your life, as well as the whole course of your life...have all come to you by His will and by His permission.”

... So much of coveting seems to originate



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*(Death by  
Suburb)*

from a deep dissatisfaction with the life I've been given. I want my neighbor's life. It's strange, really, to hate the life I have, since I've made sure that every step along the way has been chosen by me. I choose that college, I choose this spouse, I choose my wedding gifts, I choose to go back and get an MBA, I choose when to have kids, I choose to buy in this neighborhood. And yet, in many ways, I still fight the life I think I've chosen.

**2 Tim**  
**2:8-9**

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.



# **SUMMARY**

Our response to this pandemic should not be to lean deeper into our fears but to boldly invest in God's kingdom.