

Introduction:

- *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10, ESV) *"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."* (John 10:10, NLT)
- *"So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace."* (Romans 8:6, NLT)
- *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled."* (2 Corinthians 10:4-6, NKJV)

I. Two Sides To The Coin

- A. Thief - A thief is marked by secrecy and silence. It means something is being take away. This is his purpose as the NLT translates so well. This what he does:
1. steal - taking from you what belongs to you.
 2. kill - taking away from you those you hold precious.
 3. destroy - taking away value of accomplishments
 4. That is satan's job description. And he is doing a good job. Cancer destroys life, riots destroy life, diabetes destroys life, murder destroys life, abortion destroys destroys life. Hurricanes destroy, fires destroy, floods destroy, earthquakes destroy, pestilence destroy. No one in their right mind will embrace stealing, killing and destroying unless you are connect with darkness.
- B. Jesus - The Lord is Salvation! Means something is being restored to! Means He has come to give back, to grant to, to add too. His purpose is to being life and bring it abundantly. We have to know this by revelation about Jesus. For real! This is why He has come...To give:
1. Life - Zoe! Eternal, vivacious, everything it touches lives, kind of life!
 2. Abundantly! - Not in small portions, not just a little bit.

II. Two Minds To Be Fed

- A. Two natures: *"So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace."* (Romans 8:6, NLT) There are two natures at work and they each have tremendous influence on the mind.
1. Carnal/sinful mind - *letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death.*
 - a) Note that the sinful nature leads to 'thief' activity
 - b) The un-renewed mind leads to death because is already 'tainted' with death.
 2. Spiritual mind - *letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.*
 - a) The Spirit mind leads to ZOE! and Peace!
 - b) The Spiritual mind is one that is being renewed according to the Word.
 3. If you feed the sinful nature it will strengthen death in your body. If you feed the Spiritual, let the Spirit control your mind, you strengthen life in your body!
- B. Two Choices to make.
1. Choose you this day whom you will serve. I set before you life and death. I set before you blessing and cursing. Blessing and cursing/life and death are two choices. *"Today I have*

given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!" (Deuteronomy 30:19, NLT)

2. Choose whom you will serve! Emphasis on the serving.
 - a) You will reject the one...either life or either death. Either blessing or either cursing.
 - b) You will receive the other.
 - c) As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.

III. Throw Down And Build Up!

- A. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled."* (2 Corinthians 10:4-6, NKJV)
- B. The stronger weapons are mighty in God! They are stronger than those that are carnal.
 1. That is a mindset we have to change in ourselves as well...the belief that our weapons in the Spirit are mightier than those in the carnal realm. We have to believe that!
 2. Most are convinced of the opposite. When we are convinced the Spirit is stronger we are to:
- C. Throwing down imaginations/arguments.
 1. Pull down strongholds. - demolish stronghold
 2. Throw down arguments. - destroy logical arguments. If you don't get rid of wrong imaginations/arguments, you will not be able to pull down strongholds. We must have the knowledge of God so we know what we can knock down. This is the first key to spiritual victory and releasing life abundantly to ourselves and to our church!
 - a) Pulling down negative thoughts is something we have to do!
 - b) We have to replace old pictures with new ones.
 - c) To pull down you have to recognize that you are having a carnal thought.
 3. Bring into captivity. Take control/dominion over the garden of your heart.
 - a) We will often have this rogue thoughts. The enemy uses fear and rejection all the time.
 - b) We can't let these wondering thoughts TAKE FROM US. We must bring them into submission of Christ in order that the ZOE comes to us abundantly!
 4. Taking the garden of weedin' to the Garden of Eden!
- D. Again, we have to make the choice. Choose life. Feed on the Word (Spirit and Life). Throw down anything that opposes Abundant life and the things of the Spirit. Do this and we will live with life and peace!

Conclusion:

- Choose this day whom you will serve.