

LUCKY LEMONS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Everything Is Yours"

A Humble Attitude | 1 Corinthians 3:18-23, 4:1-5, 4:6-7

Complete 30-Minute Teaching Script Bowdon Baptist Church | Dr. Bobby Gaines Version
1.0

THE BIG IDEA (on the board before anybody walks in)

Everything is yours. None of it is because of you.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Whiteboard or easel pad with the board sentence already up
 - Bibles open the whole hour. ESV. Three readers, assigned before class starts:
 - Reader 1: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23
 - Reader 2: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
 - Reader 3: 1 Corinthians 4:6-7
 - No video this week. See Leader's Notes for why, and what I checked.
 - Optional handout: the phone card deck. See the Doorway Note in the Landing. Twenty seconds, out loud, phone in hand.
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TIMING AT A GLANCE, 30-MINUTE CORE

Built to a 10:15 start, which is the honest late case. If you get rolling at 10:10, spend the extra five minutes on the discussion question and nothing else.

Clock	Segment

10:15-10:19	Opening: The Pigs Do Not Own the Farm
10:19-10:26	Section 1: 3:18-23. The bragging goes backwards
10:26-10:34	Section 2: 4:1-5. The man on the bottom oar
10:34-10:41	Section 3: 4:6-7. Three questions and a price built on air
10:41-10:45	The Landing: close, quiet moment, obedience, prayer

THE HARD DEADLINE IS NOT A CLOCK, IT IS A DOOR. The children come in around 10:45. The plane lands before the door opens.

THE ROUTING MAP

Nothing gets cut on the fly, because the cuts are pre-designed.

CORE (always taught): the pig opener, the callback to last week, the backwards bragging, the Stoic slogan, the under-rower, the faithful-not-successful line, the three courts, the myth-busting minute on “judge not,” the courthouse illustration, the price built on air, the three questions of 4:7, the one discussion question, the close.

DIG DEEPER (only if discussion dies early, attendance is light, or you are in a retreat setting): the two Old Testament quotations behind verses 19 and 20, the “human day” translation note, the galley-slave myth, the reserve question bank in Appendix B. All marked in place below.

THE LANDING STARTS AT 10:41 NO MATTER WHAT. If Section 3 is still running at 10:41, Dig Deeper is already gone and the discussion question gets two answers and a thank you. The quiet moment never gets cut. It is the one thing a room full of arriving children cannot survive.

Word-for-word lines are in > blockquotes. Everything else is outline, in your own voice.

10:15-10:19 THE OPENING: THE PIGS DO NOT OWN THE FARM

Do not announce the passage yet. Do not open a Bible yet.

Folks, I want to tell you about the most confident creatures in Carroll County.

Every morning I walk out to feed, and before I ever get to the fence, the pigs already know. They come at that gate like they built it. They own the farm. They own the county. They own me. If a pig could sign a deed, he would have signed it.

[PAUSE]

And every bit of that confidence rests on one thing. A five-gallon bucket that they did not fill, that they cannot lift, and that they have never once carried.

[PAUSE]

The ducks are the same way. The goats are worse. And that one chicken struts around out there like the whole operation is named after her.

[Let the laugh come. Do not chase a second one.]

Not one of them owns anything. Every one of them has been given everything.

[PAUSE. Then point at the board.]

Everything is yours. None of it is because of you.

THE CALLBACK (this is the water on last week's seed, do not skip it):

Last Sunday somebody in this room said something I have not been able to shake. We were talking about being nobodies standing in God's field, and Amanda said that was beautiful.

She was right. And here is what I did not tell you last week, because we had not gotten there yet.

This morning Paul is going to turn around and tell those same nobodies that the field belongs to them.

[PAUSE]

Let's read it.

Reader 1: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23.

10:19-10:26 SECTION 1: THE BRAGGING GOES BACKWARDS (3:18-23)

The problem on the ground

These folks had been bragging about which teacher they belonged to. I am a Paul man. I am an Apollos man. I am a Cephas man. We saw that back in chapter 1.

Paul has been patient with them for two and a half chapters. Here is where he turns it over.

The move nobody sees coming

Paul does not tell them to stop bragging. He tells them they have been bragging in the wrong direction the entire time.

They were standing around arguing over which preacher they got to belong to. And Paul says, you have got it upside down. You do not belong to Paul. Paul belongs to you.

[PAUSE]

And then he does not stop there. Apollos is yours. Peter is yours. The world is yours. Life is yours. Death is yours. Right now is yours. Whatever is coming is yours.

He hands them the deed to everything, and then he tells them why.

Because you are Christ's. And Christ is God's.

[PAUSE]

That is the whole thing. Not one word of it is about how impressive they are. Everything is yours. None of it is because of you.

[SCHOLARSHIP: the unexpected one, keep it to forty-five seconds]

There was a saying floating around the Greek world in Paul's day. The philosophers taught that all things belong to the wise man. If you were truly wise, truly enlightened, the whole world was yours by right. That was the pitch.

Corinth had heard that pitch. And Paul takes it, and he hands the whole world to a room full of ordinary people who could not spell philosophy. Not because they got wise. Because they got Christ.

LABEL IT OUT LOUD. Say "probably" here. It buys you credibility for the Sundays when the text is harder.

- TEXT: verse 22 lists it plainly. All things are yours.
- PROBABLE: Paul is turning a well-known slogan of the philosophers on its head.
- INFERENCE: the point is the reversal, not the inventory.

[DIG DEEPER, cut first] Verses 19 and 20 are Paul quoting the Old Testament twice in two sentences. Job 5:13 and Psalm 94:11. TEXT. Worth noting that when Paul wants to take the

air out of Greek wisdom, he reaches for a Hebrew Bible.

THE MONDAY TEST

Here is what that means Monday morning.

If everything you have is a gift, then nobody in your life is your competition. The man who got the promotion you wanted did not take anything from you, because it was never yours to start with.

A man who owns nothing cannot be robbed.

[PAUSE]

Reader 2: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5.

10:26-10:34 SECTION 2: THE MAN ON THE BOTTOM OAR (4:1-5)

The one Greek word this morning

Only one, and it is worth it.

Paul says, here is how you ought to think about us. And the word he picks for "servant" is a word off the water.

The word is *hypēretēs*. Say it with me one time and then we will let it go. *Hoop-ay-RET-ace*.

Break that word open and it means the under-rower. The man on the lowest bank of oars, down in the belly of the ship, below the waterline.

[PAUSE]

He cannot see where the ship is going. He did not pick the destination. Nobody on the dock is going to know his name when that ship comes in.

And the ship moves because of him.

LABEL IT.

- TEXT: the word Paul uses is built from the parts that mean "under" and "rower."

- **PROBABLE:** by Paul's day the word had softened in ordinary use to mean an assistant or an officer. Paul's readers likely heard "attendant" first, and the rowing picture underneath it second.
- **INFERENCE:** mine, and I will say so. But it is a picture worth keeping, because Paul's whole argument is about people who wanted to be seen.

Nobody claps for the man on the bottom oar. And the ship still moves because of him.

[DIG DEEPER, cut second] The galley-slave picture most of us carry comes from the movies. Rowers in the fleets of that world were generally free men doing skilled work, not chained convicts. **PROBABLE.** Which makes the picture better, not worse. The under-rower was not a nobody. He was a man doing real work that nobody watched.

Stewards

The second word is stewards. Household managers. The man who ran the estate, handled the accounts, made real decisions, and owned not one square foot of it.

[BOBBY GAINES RULE]

I have spent a good part of my life handling money that was not mine. This church's money is not my money. I have sat in meetings where we made decisions about dollars that came out of your pockets, and the only question that ever mattered was whether we could be trusted with it.

That is what Paul says next. It is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

[PAUSE]

Not brilliant. Not impressive. Not successful. Faithful.

And I love that, because faithful is a thing you can be today. Successful is a thing you have to sit around and wait on.

The three courts

Paul then does something almost nobody has the nerve to do. He walks through every court that could try him and he dismisses all of them.

1. **Your court.** It is a very small thing to me that I am judged by you.
2. **Any human court.** He does not even flinch at it.
3. **His own court.** He says he does not even judge himself. He is not aware of anything against himself, and then he adds, but that does not make me innocent.

[PAUSE]

That last one will preach all by itself. Paul says a clean conscience is not the same thing as a clean record. I can feel fine about myself and still be wrong.

There is one Judge. It is the Lord who judges me.

[DIG DEEPER, cut third] In verse 3 the phrase behind “human court” is literally “a human day.” Paul sets man’s day against the Lord’s Day. TEXT for the wording, PROBABLE for the wordplay.

THE MYTH-BUSTING MINUTE

Now, verse 5 is one of the most misquoted verses in this town.

Somebody gets called out for something they are plainly doing, and they say, well, the Bible says judge not.

That is not what this says. Read it again. Do not pronounce judgment **before the time**. Before the Lord comes.

[PAUSE]

This is not a verse about never using your good sense. It is a verse about two things you and I do not have access to. Timing, and motives. Verse 5 says the Lord brings to light what is hidden and discloses the purposes of the heart. That is His work, not ours.

And if you need proof, turn one page. In chapter 5 Paul tells this exact same church to deal with a matter right there in the room. So he is not telling them to shut their eyes.

He is telling them to quit playing God about why people do what they do.

TEXT. All of it.

[BOBBY GAINES RULE, the courthouse]

I worked around the federal court system for twenty-seven years. I was on the administrative side. I never tried a case in my life.

But I watched a lot of people wait on a verdict. And there is nothing else quite like it. Everything in a person’s life is on hold until somebody in a robe says a word.

Verse 5 says the verdict is coming. And then Paul says the strangest thing in the whole passage.

[PAUSE]

When it comes, each one will receive his commendation from God.

His praise. God has praise waiting on the under-rower nobody ever watched.

THE MONDAY TEST

Monday morning, somebody is going to misjudge you. A boss, a neighbor, a family member, somebody on the internet.

You have two options. Spend the week building your case, or leave it with the Judge who already loves you.

If the verdict is already in and it is grace, you can quit arguing your own case.

[PAUSE]

Reader 3: 1 Corinthians 4:6-7.

10:34-10:41 SECTION 3: THREE QUESTIONS AND A PRICE BUILT ON AIR (4:6-7)

Puffed up

Paul says he has been using himself and Apollos as the example on purpose, so that none of them would get puffed up for one against another.

Puffed up. Not grown. Inflated.

[BOBBY GAINES RULE, the classroom]

I teach portfolio management over at West Georgia. And one of the first things I have to get across to a room full of twenty-year-olds is the difference between a company that is growing and a company that is just being talked about.

A price can run straight up on nothing but talk. No earnings underneath it. Nothing built. And on paper, that investor looks like he is getting rich.

[PAUSE]

It is not growth. It is air. And air always finds the door.

That is the word Paul keeps using about these people. Puffed up. Bigger, and emptier, and in more danger than they know.

Comparison is just pride keeping score out loud.

The three questions

Then Paul stops arguing and asks three questions. Three of them, back to back. And this is the second time he has done that to them. Chapter 1 ended with three questions too. Is Christ divided. Was Paul crucified for you. Were you baptized in the name of Paul.

He does it again here, and these three are the ones that finish the argument.

One. Who is it that makes you different from anybody else?

Two. What do you have that you did not receive?

Three. And if you received it, why do you brag like you did not?

[LONG PAUSE. Let question two sit there. Do not rescue it.]

Question two is the one that gets me every time. What do you have that you did not receive.

Your mind. Your health. The family you were born into. The country you were born in. The person who told you about Jesus. The breath you are using right now to argue with me about it.

You cannot be humble about something you think you earned.

[PAUSE]

THE ONE DISCUSSION QUESTION OF THE DAY

Give this four minutes. Five if you started at 10:10. Not six.

Here is what I want to ask you, and I want a real answer, not a Sunday school answer.

Name one thing you have that you know good and well you did not earn.

[Let three or four people answer. Do not comment on every one. Nod, say thank you, take the next one.]

[If the room is quiet, go first. Beth. Say her name and say why.]

THE MONDAY TEST

Every one of those things you just named came through somebody's hands. God almost never hands a gift straight down out of the sky. He sends it through a person.

Which means most of us are walking around this week owing a thank you we never said.

[PAUSE]

10:41-10:45 THE LANDING

Start here at 10:41. No exceptions.

The close

Folks, look back at the board one more time.

Everything is yours. None of it is because of you.

[PAUSE]

Paul told a room full of nobodies that the world was theirs, life was theirs, death was theirs, and the future was theirs. And then he told them why in six words. You are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

That is the only reason any of it is true.

[PAUSE]

And here is what makes it hold. The One who owns everything is the One who took the bottom oar. Jesus is the only person who ever walked this earth who could have claimed the whole thing by right, and He came down below the waterline and rowed.

When you are humble, you are not pretending to be small. You are finally telling the truth about who carried the bucket.

The quiet moment

I want you to close your eyes for a second. Nobody is looking at you.

Think about that thing you named a minute ago. The thing you did not earn.

Now put a face on it. One person God used to hand it to you. Somebody who taught you, or fed you, or prayed for you, or told you the truth when it cost them something.

[SILENCE. Count to ten. Do not fill it.]

You have got the name.

The one act of obedience this week

Here it is. One thing. Not five.

This week, tell them. Call them, text them, or say it across the kitchen table. Tell that person what they gave you and that you know good and well you did not earn it.

If they are gone, tell somebody else about them.

That is it. That is the week.

THE DOORWAY NOTE (twenty seconds, do this out loud)

Say this while they still have their heads up, and hold your own phone while you say it.

One more thing. There is a set of cards on your phone with everything we just did, one card at a time, and a place to write your own notes on it. Pull out your phone right now and let me show you where it is. It takes you about four minutes on a Wednesday.

[Nobody opened it last week because nobody was told to while holding the phone. Twenty seconds now beats anything else we could build.]

The prayer

Close it yourself. If you want a place to start:

Father, everything we have came from Your hand and none of it came from us. Thank You for the people You sent. Make us faithful with what You have trusted us with, and let us leave here loving Your Son more than we did when we walked in. Amen.

There's a chair. Soli Deo Gloria.

APPENDIX A: LEADER'S CHEAT SHEET

Claim labels used this morning

Claim	Label
All things are yours (v. 22 inventory)	TEXT
Verses 19-20 quote Job 5:13 and Psalm 94:11	TEXT
Paul inverts a philosophers' slogan about the wise man	

owning all things	PROBABLE
<i>Hypēretēs</i> is built from "under" plus "rower"	TEXT
The word commonly meant assistant or officer by the first century	PROBABLE
The under-rower picture as a model for ministry	INFERENCE (say so)
Rowers in that world were generally free skilled men, not chained slaves	PROBABLE
"Human court" in v. 3 is literally "human day"	TEXT
Paul is playing on the Day of the Lord	PROBABLE
4:5 forbids premature judgment of motives, not all discernment	TEXT (ch. 5 confirms)
A price running on talk with no earnings under it	Finance illustration only, not exegesis

The recurring line

"None of it is because of you."

Plant it in the opener. Water it at the end of Section 1. Water it again after question two in Section 3. Harvest it at the close. Four times. Do not force a fifth.

Sticky sentences

1. Everything is yours. None of it is because of you.
2. A man who owns nothing cannot be robbed.
3. Faithful is a thing you can be today. Successful is a thing you have to wait on.
4. Nobody claps for the man on the bottom oar, and the ship still moves because of him.
5. A clean conscience is not the same thing as a clean record.
6. Comparison is just pride keeping score out loud.
7. If the verdict is already in and it is grace, you can quit arguing your own case.
8. You cannot be humble about something you think you earned.

9. When you are humble, you are not pretending to be small. You are telling the truth about who carried the bucket.

Plant, water, harvest

- **Planted:** the bucket in the opener. Nobody explains it.
 - **Watered:** the under-rower in Section 2, the same idea in a different costume.
 - **Harvested:** the bucket comes back in the last line before the quiet moment.
 - **Carried from last week:** Amanda's "nobodies standing in God's field," planted last Sunday by the class itself, harvested in 3:21-23 this Sunday.
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APPENDIX B: RESERVE QUESTION BANK

Dig Deeper only. The core has exactly one discussion question and it is 4:7.

1. Paul says he does not even judge himself. Is that humility or is that dodging? What is the difference?
2. Where is the line between using good judgment about somebody and pronouncing judgment on them?
3. Verse 5 says God will bring praise. Does it surprise you that God has praise waiting for people? Why?
4. Paul told them the world was theirs. What would change this week if you actually believed the future belongs to you?
5. Which is harder for you, thinking too much of yourself or thinking too little? Is the second one really humility?
6. Who is the under-rower in this church, the one doing real work nobody watches?
7. What is one thing you have been keeping score on?
8. If faithful is the only requirement, what does faithful look like in your house Monday?
9. Something can look like it is growing when it is only being talked about. Where does that happen in a church?
10. You are Christ's, and Christ is God's. How does that sentence answer the whole chapter?

APPENDIX C: SOURCES CHECKED

Charles Stanley / In Touch on this theme. Two verified messages, both live:

- **"The Obstacle."** Pride as the barrier to humility, with practical steps. Supporting passages include Genesis 3:5, Proverbs 16:5, Isaiah 14:13-14, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, 1 Peter 5:1-7. Best fit for this lesson. intouch.org/watch/sermons/the-obstacle
- **"The Pattern."** Service and humility, built on Jesus washing feet. Stanley's line that Jesus borrowed everything during His time on earth sits right on top of our close. Backup. intouch.org/watch/sermons/the-pattern

Video. I searched and found **no** clip specific to 1 Corinthians 3:18 through 4:7. The BibleProject 1 Corinthians overview exists and is verified, but it was already recommended for the chapter 1 lesson and it is a whole-book overview, not this passage.

Recommendation: no video this week. In a 30-minute window with a door that opens at 10:45, four minutes of video costs you the discussion question. I am not going to invent a clip that does not exist.

APPENDIX D: HOOK LEDGER ENTRY

Lesson: A Humble Attitude, 1 Corinthians 3:18-23, 4:1-5, 4:6-7 **Date taught:**

Hook type	This week's hook	Repeat risk
Unexpected historical fact	The philosophers' slogan that all things belong to the wise man, inverted by Paul	New. Not previously used.
Unexpected Greek word	<i>Hypēretēs</i> , the under-rower. The only Greek spoken this morning.	New. Chapter 3 used <i>architekton</i> ; chapter 1 used <i>mōria</i> and <i>anenkletos</i> .
Unexpected finance illustration	Steward as household manager. A price built on air with no earnings under it.	The steward note is adjacent to the chapter 1 insider trading hook. Keep it to three sentences.
	The pigs and the bucket.	

Bobby's own world	The West Georgia classroom. The courthouse wait.	Farm appears once, in the opener only, because the bucket is the plant that gets harvested at the close. Three worlds this week instead of one.
The unwritten fifth: an unexpected act of grace	God has praise waiting for the under-rower nobody watched (4:5)	This is the grace note of the lesson.

Not used, still available: the Erastus sidewalk inscription (check the chapter 1 ledger first, it was listed as Dig Deeper and may never have been taught), the Gallio anchor, the Alexamenos graffito (used, chapter 1).

APPENDIX E: FILING NOTE

Per the Chapter Template, this script already contains sections 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9. Section 2 stays empty this week and nobody apologizes, because the passage did not call for a "What If" parable. Sections 8 and 10 get filled Monday.

Sunday capture, before you leave the room. Sixty seconds on your phone. What worked. What surprised me. What I will change. Then add: did anybody open the deck after the Doorway Note.

THE FINAL TEST

- **Did they see it?** The bucket, the bottom oar, the price with nothing under it.
- **Did they understand it?** Three claims labeled out loud, one myth corrected, one Greek word and only one.
- **Will they remember it?** Everything is yours. None of it is because of you.
- **Will they obey it?** One name, one thank you, this week.
- **Will they leave loving Jesus more?** The close puts Christ on the bottom oar. That is the whole lesson.