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## An Invitation to Abundant Living

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."  
—John 10:10*

What steals you away from experiencing abundant living? As I have prayed with this Scripture over the years, my focus has been primarily on Jesus' claim that he came so that we might live abundant lives. Recently I felt led to focus on the entire verse. Abundant living is the desire and the focus, but beware of the thief that comes to steal, kill, and destroy Jesus' invitation to abundant living.

There may be a variety of thieves in our lives that steal, kill and destroy our living. For me the big current thief is clutter. Piles of paper invade my prayer time as well as my daily living. And they are keeping me from living the abundant life that Jesus is inviting me to live. So, prayerfully, I have begun the process of reducing the clutter. I am moving toward more freedom and less bondage.

Thieves come in many forms. They can include feelings such as resentment, hatefulness, jealousy, and the desire for revenge. Thieves can come in the form of unhealthy relationships, clutter, food, or television. Our thieves may change throughout our lives, or we may have one or two thieves that hang around constantly trying to destroy our lives and our souls.

I invite you to pray with this Scripture, to become aware and to name what thief may be robbing you, and to see how Jesus might be inviting you to live more abundantly.

*Giver of life, guide me in discerning if there is any thief that is destroying me from living the abundant life you desire for me. Then give me the strength, wisdom, and grace to find clarity on how to respond to your ongoing invitation to abundant living. Amen.*

*Sara J. Davis-Shappell*