

# Sermon Note: Mine All Mine

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

### Introduction

As **God Is in the Radio** draws to a close, we turn to one of the most unapologetic songs in the series: "Mine All Mine" by Van Halen. It's a song that doesn't hide behind metaphor or subtlety—it demands answers. It wrestles with big questions about truth, fulfillment, and what belongs to us.

Scripture asks those questions, too. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a story about a man who thought everything he had was his own—his crops, his wealth, his future. But when his life comes to an unexpected end, the illusion of ownership falls apart. It's a parable that invites us to reconsider what we claim as "mine"—and what *actually* lasts.

The song and the scripture both remind us: the things we try to possess rarely last—but what God provides has never been ours to earn or control in the first place. As this series nears its conclusion, we are invited to wrestle with the tension between our limited desires and God's boundless vision—the same vision that keeps finding its way into unexpected places, even the songs we already know.

### Illustration Videos

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5\\_8e7HyrY0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5_8e7HyrY0)

This week's video features arena-rock band Van Halen performing "Mine All Mine" live in concert. The energy and intensity of the performance echo the urgency of the song's questions—the restless search for truth, fulfillment, and to question what we think belongs to us.

### Video Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most in the song—the lyrics, the tone, the performance, or something else? Why?
2. The singer repeats the phrase "Mine all mine." How do you hear that—pride, frustration, longing, or something else?
3. The song wrestles with big questions about truth, identity, and what we cling to as "ours." It acknowledges that searching for answers isn't easy—and that even our deepest beliefs can feel fragile at times. How do you experience that tension between wanting certainty and living with questions??
4. Van Halen delivers this song with intensity and boldness. How does that amplify the message of the lyrics?
5. The parable in Luke tells of a man whose life ends unexpectedly, disrupting his sense of ownership. How does the song echo that same confrontation with control or self-reliance?
6. In your own life, what things have you held onto tightly—only to realize they were never really yours to control?

7. The song expresses dissatisfaction with easy answers, hypocrisy, and surface-level beliefs. Where do you see that same hunger for something deeper? In you? In others?
8. The idea that everything belongs to us can be appealing—but also isolating. How do you think our culture encourages or challenges that mindset?
9. If you had to sum up the tension at the heart of the song in one sentence, what would it be?

### **Ecclesiastes 2:18-23 (NRSVue)**

<sup>18</sup>I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, <sup>19</sup>and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup>So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup>because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup>What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup>For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

### **Luke 12:13-21 (NRSVue)**

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup>Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

### **Scripture Study Questions**

1. The writer of Ecclesiastes suggests that our labor and accomplishments can benefit those who come after us. How does that perspective challenge or inform your understanding of purpose and achievement?
2. The writer wrestles with the idea that our work and achievements may outlive us—but often in ways we cannot control. How does that shape the way you think about legacy, success, or purpose?
3. Ecclesiastes invites us to face uncomfortable questions about what really matters. How does this compare to the questions raised in Mine All Mine?
4. The author of Ecclesiastes expresses frustration with the impermanence of our work, our efforts. Do you experience this tension in your own life—whether through work, family, or other responsibilities?
5. In this parable, Jesus challenges a man focused on wealth and possessions. What warning do you hear in this story—for individuals, or for our society?
6. The man in the parable believes he has secured his future, only to discover how fragile life is. How does that connect with the themes from Ecclesiastes?

7. Both the scripture and the song push us to examine what we claim as "ours." How do you personally wrestle with questions of ownership, control, and trust?
8. Jesus invites his listeners to look beyond possessions and embrace something greater. How do you define this in your own life?
9. When you consider both Ecclesiastes and Jesus' parable, how do they challenge cultural messages about success and security?
10. The song expresses frustration with easy answers, and Ecclesiastes and Luke resist offering them as well. How do you find hope or grounding when life's questions don't resolve easily?

### **Weekly Action**

Take time this week to pay attention to what you call "mine." It could be your accomplishments, your plans, your resources—even your time. As you move through the week, notice the moments when you hold those things tightly. Pause. Ask yourself: Does this belong to me? Or does it belong to something larger than me? You might even choose one thing—big or small—that you tend to hold with a closed hand. What would it look like to loosen your grip, to entrust it to God, or to use it for something beyond yourself?

### **Prayer**

Generous God, you remind us that everything we have is a gift—and yet, so often, we grasp for more. We cling to control. We claim ownership over what was never ours to begin with. Teach us to loosen our grip. Teach us to trust your vision—one that reaches beyond what we build for ourselves. Help us find peace in your presence, even as we hold the things of this world lightly. Help us seek purpose that endures. In our questions, in our searching, may your grace meet us again. Amen.