Generosity

Seek First | Week Four

November 19th & 22nd | Christian Putman

2 Corinthians 8:9 *"You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."*

Week 1: Heart; Who has first place in our hearts?

Week 2: Stewardship; Who owns it all?

Week 3: Contentment; What am I trusting?

Week 4: Generosity; What Legacy will I leave?

WE HAVE A GENEROUS GOD

Psalms 145:9-10 "*The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. All of your works will thank you, Lord, and your faithful followers will praise you."*

Ephesians 1:6-8: "*So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. "*

John 3:16-17 "*For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."*

Romans 8:31-32 "*What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?"*

GENEROSITY

1 John 3:16-17 "*We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."*

Acts 4:32-35 "*All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need."*

2 Corinthians 9:10-13 *"For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ."*

GENEROSITY IN ACTION

*Trusting God: Giving Him our first and best **Malachi 3:10***

STEWARDSHIP *Everything belongs to God, including our time, talent, and treasure. We are called to use it generously for His Kingdom.*

- **TIME** *How we spend it and who we spend it with*
- **TALENT** *Using our God-given gifts and abilities to serve others.*
- **TREASURE** *Our money and possessions. Tithing was practiced before the Law, commanded during the Law, and affirmed by Jesus.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 "*Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."*

THE ETERNAL IMPACT OF GENEROSITY

Matthew 5:14-16 "*You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."*

Psalms 112:4-9 *"Light shines in the darkness for the godly. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous. Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their business fairly. Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking back over the Seek First series, what has God revealed to you about what has first place in your heart and life?
2. How has your understanding of stewardship changed as you've considered that your time, talents, and treasure all belong to God?
3. Where do you struggle most with finding contentment in God rather than in money, possessions, or the things of this world?
4. When you reflect on how generous God has been toward you, especially through Jesus Christ, how does that challenge the way you live and treat others?
5. Read ***Matthew 5:14–16*** & ***2 Corinthians 9:12–13***. How can our generosity as individuals and as a church become a light in our community and point others toward Jesus?
6. As we finish this series, what is one specific step God is calling you to take to seek His Kingdom first, and how can your group encourage and hold you accountable as you take that step?

GROUP QUESTIONS
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