"Generosity: What legacy will I leave?"

Review - Jesus wants to be 1st in our lives, Stewardship, Contentment - This week Generosity

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV) "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [9] As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." [10] Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

The Corinthian Church was struggling to *follow through* with a special offering they had committed to which was intended to help the church in Jerusalem for famine relief.

The text reveals three Biblical principles about generosity.

1. Motivation - what you have decided in your heart

- Our motivation for Biblical generosity comes from knowing what Christ has given us.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

- Our motivation for Biblical generosity comes from our deep abiding relationship with the Lord.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV) "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, [7] rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

- Our motivation for Biblical generosity comes from having an eternal perspective.

1 Peter 4:7-10 (NIV) "The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. [8] Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

- Biblical generosity starts with a decision, not an emotion. Your *motive matters* to God.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV) "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

- Biblical generosity is motivated by our love for others.

1 John 3:16-17 (NIV) "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. [17] If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"

- Biblical generosity is an act of worship to God.

Romans 12:1 (NIV) "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

- Generosity shares all that God has given us. Not just money, everything we have been given. (Acts 2:44-45) *This is where our motivation is tested.*

When we are generous with a right heart, He takes what we give and produces even more.

2. Multiplication

2 Corinthians 9:8-10 (NIV) "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [9] As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." [10] Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."

- When God multiplies our giving, just as He makes a seed produce a harvest; generosity expressed through love, grace and mercy is powerful.

Luke 6:38 (NIV) "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

- You cannot out-give God. He will return more to you, in one way or another. We don't give to get. We give because of gratitude for what He has given us.

3. Impact - meeting both spiritual and physical needs

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV) "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

- How did a Roman culture of slavery, corruption, hedonism, immorality and arrogance embrace Christianity?

What does the world need? A church that can feed people practically and meet their spiritual needs.

2 Corinthians 9:12-13 (NIV) "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. [13] Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with others."

- Generosity proves we are genuine Christians. It reveals our true devotion.

God is looking for people who have a generous posture towards life. People who are willing to be generous with their *time*, *talents* and *treasure* for the purpose of redeeming the lost.

- Will you adjust your calendar for Kingdom work?
- Will you use your talents to help others know Him?
- Will you use your treasure for Kingdom work? Acts 2:45-47

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What has God given you that you take for granted? How can you show gratitude to Him for that instead?
2. How could you share more of God's provisions for you, whether time, talent, money or possessions?
3. How do you feel when you give, especially when you give sacrificially? Do you worry inside or feel resentful? Or do you joyfully look to God to multiply your gift and still provide for your needs?
4. If you fear giving too much, what does God's Word have to say on the subject?

Overtime Podcast

Serve Info

Group Questions

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