generosity: what legacy will i leave?

seek first | week four

post falls campus | november 19th & 22nd | jim putman

Introduction —
Why should I be obedient and generous is a great question?

A principle – God gives; we abuse – He offers Himself, and we choose to have faith and obey, and He enters into us and into our situation

Main Text:
Matthew 6:33 (NIV) "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Seeking first His Kingdom is to accept the invitation to the Saving King and to understand the war that has been waged

Generosity: A willing heart that gladly goes beyond specified requirements to meet needs and advance God's purposes.

Walking with Jesus – being a Born again believer starts a process in us – becoming Holy

2 Cor. 3:17–18 (NIV) | Romans 8:29 (NIV) | 2 Timothy 2:20–21

Competing Kingdoms – The Enemy of Generosity — Materialism fed by discontent vs. generosity is fed by faith

Materialism is seeing the physical world as the source of what matters most. | **2 Cor. 4:16–18 (NIV)**

- Creates discontentment: I believe what I lack is the reason I am unhappy. Promotes comparison
- Creates misplaced hope: I look to money and possessions for security, comfort, and joy.
- Creates fear: I hesitate to give because I am afraid I won't have enough later.

1 Timothy 6:17–19 Do not put your hope in wealth, which is uncertain, but in God. Be rich in good deeds, generous, and willing to share. Store up treasure for the coming age.

- When we come to Christ, we are justified. As we walk with Him, we are being sanctified.
- Sanctification means becoming more holy—set apart for God and His purposes.
- The more we become like Jesus, the more we begin to see things from His perspective.
- Our values, desires, priorities, and understanding of possessions begin to change.

Ephesians 4:28 The thief is transformed from someone who takes, to someone who works, to someone who has something to share.

Key Thought: *Sanctification changes not only what we do with our money but what we want to do with it.*

Application: Am I becoming more like Jesus in the way I view money and possessions?

Generosity Grows When We Understand What God Has Given Us

- Like forgiveness – when we remember what we are given, we give (Matt 18:23)
- Everything belongs to God. We are stewards, not owners.
- God has given us resources to accomplish His purposes.
- We become content with what God has given us because our security and joy are found in Him.

The church begs for the privilege to give | **1 Chronicles 29:14 | 2 Corinthians 8:1–7 (NIV)**

- They experienced severe trials and extreme poverty.
- Their joy overflowed into rich generosity.
- They gave willingly and sacrificially.
- They considered giving a privilege.
- Verse 5: They gave themselves first to the Lord.

1 Peter 4:8–11 | 2 Corinthians 9:7

Key Thought: Obedience establishes a practice of giving. Spiritual maturity develops a heart that delights in giving.

Application: Am I simply fulfilling an obligation, or am I becoming a person who loves to give?

Generosity comes from faith in God and His Promises | **Matthew 6:33–34 (NIV)**

A. Faith overcomes comparison | **Philippians 3:7–8**
B. Faith produces contentment | **Philippians 4:11–13**
C. Faith overcomes fear | **Romans 8:31 | Matthew 6:32–33**
D. Faith lives in light of eternity | **1 Timothy 6:18–19 | 2 Corinthians 9:11**

The more we become like Jesus, the more we see what He sees, value what He values, and use what He has entrusted to us for His Kingdom.

Are you seeking first His Kingdom, or are you still seeking the security, comfort, and happiness this world promises?

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