

Generosity – Part 2
Breaking The Power Of Greed
Celebration Church - November 15, 2009

Luke 12:13-15 (NIV) (Jesus) *“...Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*

Greed: Selfish desire to have more

Jesus' warning about greed: don't look for life from lifeless things

Generosity: Love in motion

Luke 10:30-35 (NIV) *“... A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”*

GREED CAUSES US TO

Take what's not ours

Greed: “what's yours is mine.”

“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead...”

Hold what we can't keep

Greed: “what's mine is mine.”

“A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.”

James 1:27 (NIV) *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

GENEROSITY CAUSES US TO

Release what we have to meet a need in others

“...But a Samaritan... took pity on him...”

Generosity: “what's mine is yours.”

Generous people:

- **Use their time to help others** *“...Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him....”*
- **Use their financial resources for others** *“he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper.”*
- **Have a long term commitment toward others** *“Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.”*

Prov 11:25 (NIV) *“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”*

Isaiah 58:10 (Msg) *“If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.”*

Romans 1:5 (Msg) *“Through him we received both the generous gift of his life and the urgent task of passing it on to others who receive it by entering into obedient trust in Jesus.”*

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Welcome

Question – What’s the best gift you have ever received or what’s the best gift you have ever given? Explain.

Question – We’ve all seen the make a wish foundation take a young child with cancer or some dreaded disease and grant them a fairy tale wish. If you could grant a wish to one person who would it be and what would you grant?

Worship - Take turns describing the giving nature of God. What has He given, what has He done and what is His character like? (Use scriptures if possible)

Pray and thank God for these things.

Word - The word generosity has different meanings to different people. Some people may think that generosity is giving someone else what you have left over or don’t need any more. Others may think that generosity is giving away your best and then doing without yourself. In the sermon we saw that generosity is love in motion and has more to do with the attitude of the heart. Sure there’s an action but it’s motivated by love.

Read this passage and discuss the questions.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NLT) **6**“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. **7** You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. **8** And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. **9** As the Scriptures say, "Godly people give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will never be forgotten." **10** For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you. **11** Yes,

you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will break out in thanksgiving to God.”

Talk about planting and harvesting.

What do you get when you plant?

How do you ensure a generous return?

There’s obviously forethought in the planting process. A farmer determines how much seed he will plant, when and where he plants all in advance. The Bible teaches here that we should make up our mind as how much to give.

How does a person determine these factors of giving; when, how much and to whom?

In verse 8 there’s a promise from God, what is it? Do you believe this statement to be true? Why?

In verse 9 there’s a connection between godly people and giving to the poor, is it possible to be godly and not give to those in need?

Luke 12:15 (NIV) (Jesus)"*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*"

In the message greed was defined as a selfish desire to get more. What is the motivating factor in people to make them greedy?

How does greed affect relationships?

What can you do to break the grip of greed?

Walk - Last week the group discussed meeting a need, finish those plans and carry it out.

Memory Verse

Prov 11:25 (NIV) "*A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*"