



"Triumphant In Christ, Victorious In Life"

Generosity
changes everything

Sermon Handout – Connection Notes

Sermon: "GIVING: What's The Big Deal?" – 10/28/2018

Acts 20:35 (NKJV) – "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Acts 20:35 (The Message) – "In everything I've done, I have demonstrated to you how necessary it is to work on behalf of the weak and not exploit them. You'll not likely go wrong here if you keep remembering that our Master said, 'You're far happier giving than getting.'"

INTRODUCTION:

- There are 500 verses in Bible on _____, There are 500 less verses on faith.
- But there are over 2,000 verses on finances _____
- The truth and reality is this: _____ effects our heart, our head and our habits.

GIVING 101:

Luke 6:38 (NKJV) – "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV) – "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

- **Point #1: Giving is the natural reaction of our _____, but is an unnatural response to our _____.** **Matthew 10:8** – "Freely you have received, freely give."
- This is the reason why so many people who want to give do not.
- It's why studies show _____% of Christians don't give at all and less than _____% of Christians in all Church's of various backgrounds and denominations regularly tithe.
- The struggle comes because our heart _____ differently than our flesh. Our flesh sees life as a zero-sum game, but our hearts see possibilities beyond this life.
- **Point #2: Giving sets in motion the laws of heaven which will remain _____ regardless of how much you pray.** **Malachi 3:9-10** – "You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. ¹⁰Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it."
- **Point #3: Giving is prioritized by _____ as a transformational moment in your spiritual journey.**
 - ❖ **Luke 16:10** – "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."
 - ❖ We are called to be wise and faithful Stewards and the first Stewardship Test is How do we handle and manage the money God puts into our hands? What we can learn from this parable: Why did this steward get fired? He couldn't be _____ with managing His owner's money. He was _____.
 - ❖ Jesus said that _____ is the least area of trusting God. (**Verse 10**). In other words, **MONEY** tells to truth about who or what we _____. Following the _____ is the litmus test of our _____.
- **Point #4: Giving differs in what we have, but the measurement of success is universal; it's _____.**
 - ❖ **Luke 16:12** – "And if you have not **been faithful** in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"
 - ❖ God doesn't ask me to be faithful over what _____ have but over what I have.





I don't get to say "I don't have as much," or "My little is more than others' much." I get to be _____.
_____ is when we trust God. _____ is when God trusts us.

- **Point #5: Giving is an act of faith saying, "Less with God is better than more WITHOUT God."**
 - ❖ **Philippians 4:19** – "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
- **Giving reality: If you do not _____ around God, then God will not be able to help you with your budget.**
 - ❖ **Proverbs 13:16 (TLB)** – "A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't and even brags about it!"
- **Point #6: Giving is a treasure statement telling what is most _____ in my heart. Matthew 6:19** – "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal."

GENEROSITY (ANOTHER LOOK AT IT):

- **2 Stories**
 - ❖ The woman with _____ and the man with _____.
 - ❖ **Luke 21:2-3** – "And He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. ³So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all."
 - ❖ **Luke 19:8** – "Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." A Widow and a Tax Collector
- Many people's natural inclination is to think the _____ will change his response.
- At the heart of both stories, **generosity** is the _____. **Luke 19:8-9** – "Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." ⁹And Jesus said to him, "**Today salvation** has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham."
 - Salvation comes to your house when there is _____. **Luke 19:10** "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Where there is generosity, He _____ and saves the lost.
 - ❖ **Let's get real.** Jesus never envisioned a _____ without generosity. **Matthew 10:8** "Freely you have received, freely give." **Luke 6:38** – "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." **Acts 20:35 (MSG)** – "You'll not likely go wrong here if you keep remembering that our Master said, 'You're far happier giving than getting.'"
- Being a giver isn't good for a 100 yard dash, but valuable for a _____. When Jesus comes into your house, it changes how you think about _____.
Luke 19:5 – "And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."
 - ❖ Giving has to be _____. As in Zacchaeus's story, God wants you to start giving today. A meaningful relationship with Jesus changes everything. Heart; Head; and _____

