



Let's Go: GENEROSITY

Warm-Up Question:

What emotions do you feel when the church talks about money & generosity?

READ: Mark 12:41-44

I. GENEROSITY: RESISTED

- ▶ If Jesus had called you over as he sat there in the temple, how might you have processed what he said about the widow and her giving (VS. 43-44)?
- ▶ **Obstacle: We think it's ours** — How might this thought hinder generosity? How does 1 Chron. 29:16 & Ps. 50:10-12 help free us from that thought?
- ▶ **Obstacle: We don't think we have enough** — Do you struggle with this? How did the widow (VS. 44) and Christians in 2 Cor. 8:1-4 consider this?
- ▶ **Obstacle: We turn it into an idol** — From Matt. 6:21, how does our spending/giving a reflection of what we love/want most in life? Discuss which of these are your "treasures" & how it reflects your spending/giving?
 - Safety/Comfort
 - Approval
 - Worldly Pleasure/leisure
 - Security/control
 - Significance/power

II. GENEROSITY: EMBRACED

- ▶ **Motivation: JOY** — Read 2 Cor. 9:7-8 and discuss how the promise of VS 8 produces a "non-reluctant" and "cheerful giver."
- ▶ **Motivation: TRUST** — What is it about your heavenly Father from Matt. 6:26 & 32 that enables you to live out VS. 20 & 33?
- ▶ **Motivation: GRATITUDE** — All our earthly "treasures" demand our lives and leave us feeling poor. Read 2 Cor. 8:9 & discuss how the gospel does the opposite. Discuss how Jesus:
 - "was rich" ➔ • "for your sake"
 - "become poor" • "that you... might become rich."
- ▶ What does that say about what God treasures? How should that affect our heart and free us to be more generous?

◆ Generosity Table Topic Cards:
Discuss some of the questions on the cards this week with friends or family around a meal

◆ Tim Keller Video on Generosity



Digging Deeper in Application

- ◆ How would this change my life if I really believed and lived it out?
- ◆ How should it influence:
 - 1) My relationship with God
 - 2) My view of myself
 - 3) My relationship with others (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors)
 - 4) My work/calling
- ◆ What is the grace or promise of God that motivates me to do these things?