



PART 4: THE GENEROSITY CHALLENGE

Sermon Notes

Text: Luke 12:13-21

Intro:

Summer Challenge – being purposeful about growing in faith and blessing our community

Today: The Generosity challenge

Jesus knew that money would be God's biggest competitor for our affections.

Money must be a tool instead of a god.

1. Generosity is the antidote to greed

Luke 12:13-21

We must “watch out” for greed, because it's not as obvious as other sins - it's hard to define.

The accumulation of wealth is not what life is about.

Being “rich toward God” means using our wealth in ways that reflect God's character.

2. Generosity is a natural response to the gospel

Paul used the gospel as a motivation to encourage the Corinthians to be generous (2 Corinthians 8:9)

The source of the church's resources is not people; it's God. God provides, but people have the opportunity to partner in his provision.

3. Generosity is how we partner with gospel ministry all over the world

After prayer, financial partnership is the most commonly urged gospel promoting activity in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 9 - those who preach the gospel full time should be financially supported.

Philippians 1:3-5 - those who financially support gospel ministry are full “partners” in the work.

Philippians 4:18 - giving is an act of high praise in the New Covenant

Conclusion:

The Generosity Challenge: Put generosity in your monthly budget

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Do you find it hard to talk about money in church? What are some ways we can miss the point when it comes to God's purposes for our money?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Luke 12:31-21. The rich man's plans represent a very common pattern in today's world. Why did God call him a "fool"? How do you define greed? How do you diagnose it in your own life? What can you do to repent from greed?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9. Paul is encouraging the church to fulfill their commitment to give toward an offering he's collecting. How does he motivate the corinthians? Can you discern Paul's theology of giving from this passage? (i.e. how does our understand of God shape our practice of generosity?). What would a lack of generosity say about a person's understanding/misunderstanding of God?

Application:

1. Do the Generosity Challenge: Put generosity in your monthly budget

Prayer:

1. Pray for opportunities to be generous
2. Other Requests
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