

Week of Feb 3, 2019 — Committed: Living Generously

Introduction

Generosity Defined

- Jonathan pitted the word *generosity* against the word *giving*, and compared the two words to “long-term investments” versus “impulse purchases”. Do you agree or disagree with his assessment? How would *you* define generosity versus giving?

Scripture/Sermon Discussion

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Jonathan mentioned that if we have the luxury of running water, electricity, etc. that we are among the rich of this world. If so, this passage speaks to us.

- What are examples of ways we set our hopes on riches? (vs 17)
- What are examples of ways that we can *instead* set our hopes on God, as the verse commands?
- Vs 19 ends with the words, “...that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”
 - Can anyone share an example where being generous was truly life-giving / joyful for them?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 as a group:

- What is the example that Christ gave for us?
- Why did he become poor? What was his goal in emptying himself?
- Bonus Challenge: Memorize this verse right now and test each other in your group!

Read 2 Corinthians 9:5 and 9:7:

- What common theme do you see evidenced in each of these verses?
- What does this tell us about *how* we give?
- Our culture often values spontaneous giving. It’s often seen as a romantic idea to have something just “come naturally” or automatically. Do you think arranging a gift in advance can *take away* something from the gift itself?
- What are your thoughts on using automatic-withdrawal for giving to church?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-11:

- Who is the supplier in these verses?
- *Why* will he “supply and multiply your seed”? (vs 10) For what purpose?
- *Why* will you “be enriched”? (vs 11) In order to what?
- What is the *end result*? (vs 11-13)
- Does this line up with your attitude towards receiving from God? What do you need to confess / what changes do you need to make?

What did you think of the principles for generous giving? Discuss the validity and benefits of each (and share any examples you may have, too):

- Priority: Give off the top / the beginning of your earnings
- Percentage: Give proportionate to your income
- Plan: Choose ahead of time where you give your money

Where do *you* currently give financially to? Is it a *prioritized, planned, percentage* of your income?

- Follow up—why is this such an uncomfortable question to answer?

Read Matthew 6:1-4

- What is the heart of this passage?
- Does this mean we shouldn't speak about our giving to others? Why or why not?
 - (Hint: make sure your reasoning also applies to verses 5-6)

Concluding Thought

Jonathan finished his message with this challenge, “Where is God asking you to be more generous?” Do you sense God leading you in any direction?

Prayer

- Pray for an increased trust in God's provision
- Pray for God's blessing so you can be generous
- Confess any greed, fear, selfish attitudes that may be present
- Pray for God to meet the financial needs of MRBC