

Digging Deeper During the Week!

Generosity is what being like Christ is all about! Most people today long to be more generous but need some help starting. *Exploring the world of generosity from God's Word will provide the encouragement you need!*

Monday Generosity Flows from a Willing Heart! 31-Mar Exodus 35.4-29

Generosity is a matter of the heart and the spirit. People are generous to their church ministry because they possess a tender heart.

- In the building of the first worship center, called the Tent of Meeting (Tabernacle), a general call for sacrificial giving is made. As you read through the list (4-19) what strikes you about the list of things requested? How does this list allow for many participants in giving?
- Of the people who bring their generous gifts, we find they possess three conditions (20-22). What are these conditions and how do they affect generosity and giving? Note what the gifts we called (29).

Tuesday Generosity Reaps an Abundant Harvest! 1-Apr Galatians 6.6-10

While people scream today about impure motives, the fact of the matter is that God wants us to think about the harvest our generosity will bring!

- The focus of our giving here is to care for the ones who spiritually teach us (pastors, small group leaders, etc.) In the Old Testament the tithe was to pay the salaries of these men of God. What is the spiritual warning in this passage (7)? When you link verses 6 and 7 together, what implications do these verses bring to our giving?
- Since being generous to our spiritual teachers is so important, what will the sacrificial giver receive? According to this passage (8-10) there are clear, Earthly benefits. What are they? What might happen when we don't see those quickly? What should be our attitude?

Wednesday Generosity is Rewarded by God! 2-Apr Matthew 6.1-4

Generosity is to become a lifestyle. How we give is as important as the fact that we are supposed to become like Jesus, being generous.

- Giving for the wrong reasons brings no reward – and, by implication, no motivation for further giving (1-2). What were the evidences of wrong motivations for giving, according to Jesus?

- Generous giving is supposed to draw no attention to the giver (3-4). In what ways could you practice such generous giving in keeping with the passage. Remember to keep your application personal.

Thursday Generosity Prepares the Gift in Advance! 3-Apr 2 Corinthians 9.1-7

When times of tragedy strike, how we give reflects both our love for Christ and our faith in Him.

- When a famine hit Israel, the churches of Greece began to take up a relief offering on their behalf. What were the steps taken to ensure the generosity of the Corinthians (1-5)? What implications does this bring into our giving patterns and our preparation?
- There is a strong word of advice given to the church people (6) – what does this imply for your giving pattern? What kind of a giver does God love (7)? What are the traits of a generous giver?

Friday Generosity is the Evidence of Faith! 4-Apr James 2.14-20

Faith – how do we recognize it? By the generosity of those who possess it! Generously taking care of needs is the evidence of true faith!

- What are the needs listed in this passage that the generous will meet? What are the responses to these needs by those without faith in Jesus Christ?
- The centrality of our faith in Jesus is found in our generosity! What is the 'bottom line' presented here in this passage as to our faith?

Saturday Generosity is Measured by Percentage! 5-Apr Mark 12.41-44

Perhaps one of our greatest 'life-quakes' comes from this passage. Jesus watches what we give in the offering plate and evaluates our giving!

- Giving in the offering plate is something most people do. When we give, Jesus watches. What difference do you notice about the gifts given here between the rich and the poor widow (41-42)?
- Jesus makes an evaluation of the giving of all of the people. He singles out one specific person – a widow – and commends her giving. Why? Did you notice that Jesus is impressed with two things about the widow? What are they (44)? What percentage does your giving reflect when it comes to your financial condition?

"I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." Philippians 3:13 (NLT)

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