

## Liberty LifeGroups Discussion

# ELEPHANT in the Room

( Part 3 Radical Generosity )

Nov 15, 2020

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to [www.experienceliberty.org](http://www.experienceliberty.org) and select the Sermon title listed above.

### Verses: Luke 6:36-38 (READ)

*Our community has never seen what could happen if our church and people became radically generous*  
--Matthew Burrell--

- What is your tendency when it comes to spending money? Are you a tightwad? How about when you send money on yourself? Would you consider yourself generous towards others? How about towards the guy standing at the stoplight holding a cardboard sign which reads "hungry with family?"
- Why does the church tend to shy away or feel threatened when challenged about its peoples tithing and offering properly?
- ~37% of the church *never* makes an investment, monetarily, into the church. Does that make you feel angry? On average a church patron only gives \$17 a week. Is that too low or too high? Think about what you spent \$17 on this week, that at a closer look, was just an impulse buy.
- What could the church accomplish if everyone gave generously?
- In what aspect could you become radically generous?

### Luke 6:36 **"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."**

- What is mercy in regard to how God treats us?  
(to withhold judgment that others deserve even as God withholds judgment that sinners deserve)
- **Be merciful** is written in the *present imperative* which means a continual exhibition of mercy (especially to those who do not deserve it)
- Have heard of the Mercy Seat of Christ? It is the place where the OT High priest would enter into once a year, on The Day of Atonement, and offer God a lamb as a sacrifice for national sin. What was Gods' response?

### Luke 6:37 **"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned."**

- Think about a courtroom. There is a judge. HE has authority to judge and condemn. We don't!
- **Do not** judge and **Do not** condemn again are *present imperatives* with a negative. This means you are to stop doing this or don't begin doing this. Discuss how our impulse is often to judge someone or condemn someone.

- People often use this verse as an escape from the authority of Gods' Word. Ever heard this from someone in sin?
- My experience has been that Christians are often a very judgmental group (and I include myself). We tend to be critical of each other. Why?

**Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."**

**Give** is written in the *present imperative* as a command to make this one's lifestyle.

- Think about your lifestyle as a Christian. Would you rather give or get?
- Here is the principle in giving: *Give away first to get back*. Have you seen this principle in our church?
- Remember Matthew 14 and the story of the two fish and five loaves. What happened after it was given to Jesus? How was giving a little to Jesus rewarded?
- What if we applied this principle to the altar? How much would God give to each of us if we just gave him our needs, hurts and desires on His altar?
- This command ties in with the principle of sowing and reaping. **Discuss.**
- The Jews wore a long loose robe down to the feet, and round the waist a girdle. The robe could be pulled up so that the bosom of the robe above the girdle formed a kind of outsize pocket in which things could be carried. So, the modern equivalent of the phrase would be, "People will fill your pocket." God sometimes uses people to bless those who give generously. How have you been blessed through your generosity?
- I once read of a Pastors' introduction to a conference as him "delivering wisdom from the overflow of his relationship with God." The Overflow! Would you be willing to give so much as to live in the overflow of God's blessing?

**For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."**

God's evaluation of the character of one's life and the pleasure he expresses at the way you give sets the standard of the measure you receive. Summarily, the standard you use in relation to others is the standard that God will apply.

- Think about how you have treated others around you, given to others around you, loved others around you, been merciful to others around you. Are you willing to receive the same standard you have given?