

WEEK FOUR

DAY ONE

The Miracle of a
Generous Heart
Daily Devotionals

Prepared by: Garrett Holzer
for October 25, 2021

REPOSITION & EARLY CHURCH PT. 1

How might we become a more generous person? Do we become more generous by giving more, or do we become more generous by repositioning our heart to be more generous? In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul writes,

“Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

It does not seem that the amount given, or if you give more, is what God loves. The amount you give must be decided in your heart through prayer. However, that you are a cheerful giver, not giving from regret or anxiety but cheerfully giving, is what God loves. Take time to pray to the Father about what you have. Thank Him for everything you have been given by the Lord. Not just material things but spiritual things as well. Paul continues in verse 8,

“And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”

Paul here makes the argument that sufficiency in everything, from the grace that overflows from God, leads to abundance for every good deed. No matter how ill-equipped you are in material things, you always have abundance in God.

WEEK FOUR

DAY TWO

The Miracle of a
Generous Heart
Daily Devotionals

Prepared by: Garrett Holzer
for October 26, 2021

REPOSITION & EARLY CHURCH PT. 2

How was the early church able to sell their property and possessions and then share them? What change was made amongst them that would cause such generosity? It was their hearts that changed after hearing the gospel. It is recorded in Acts 2:37,

“Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart.” Their hearts were changed! They were in awe of all that God was doing amongst them. We have no recorded command that they were told to do this. When the church saw a need within the church congregants, they would sell their own possessions to meet that need. Acts 4:34-35 records, “For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each to the extent that any had need.”

Take time to pray to the Father about the needs of those around you. Find what you may not need and what could meet the needs of those around you. Listen to how the Holy Spirit may pierce your heart so that you, too, can be generous

WEEK FOUR

DAY THREE

The Miracle of a
Generous Heart
Daily Devotionals

Prepared by: BJ McMichael
for October 27, 2021

SOMETIMES WHAT WE DON'T DO MATTERS THE MOST

Mark 10:17-22 tells us of an interaction between Jesus and a Rich Young Ruler. You could make a case that this guy had it all. Money, fame, power, and authority at such a young age. However, by his own recognition, he still lacked something. So he approaches Jesus in a somewhat unrestrained and enthusiastic manner. This young man seemed to initially have some type of respect for Jesus as a spiritual guide and/or, at least, held him in high regard because he asked him a very spiritual question, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

In typical Jesus fashion, He answers a question with a question. Jesus asks, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One -- God..." continuing his response for his checklist-minded interrogator by listing commandments 5-10.

Like items on the grocery list, the Rich Young Ruler is probably feeling pretty good about what he has accomplished to merit the prize he asked about in his initial question, completely oblivious to one key item that hasn't been mentioned yet. Jesus continues, "You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Jesus doesn't tell the man specifically what the one thing is but gives him four directives:

--Go & sell, give, then come and follow.

Ultimately, Jesus lovingly challenges this Rich Young Ruler to consider the implications of his own question. Only God truly embodies the perfect nature of what it means to be good which demands complete allegiance to the first commandment, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. However, because his riches were worth more to him than God, he walked away sad even though he had great wealth.

You would think the man would be excited because he got exactly what he asked for. But notice the progression of his interaction with Jesus: Good Teacher, until he was shown what that word really meant (vs. 17), to just acknowledging him as Teacher (vs. 20), to walking away from Jesus completely (vs. 22). In the end, everything depends on our response to Jesus when it comes to our salvation, which can directly impact the things we consider most valuable to us; our time, our talents, our treasures, and our gifts.

You see, when it comes to having a heart of generosity, it's not just what you do that matters. Sometimes it's what we don't do that matters most.

WEEK FOUR

DAY FOUR

The Miracle of a
Generous Heart
Daily Devotionals

Prepared by: Stacey Loll
for October 28, 2021

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship often generates a little angst; partly because it is commonly used when discussing giving campaigns, but stewardship is more than that. The best definition I have found is:

**“Stewardship is managing
God’s blessings
God’s ways for
God’s glory!”
(Ramsey Solutions)**

That definition gives a much better picture of stewardship. It is ALL about God—His blessings done in His ways for His glory!

It takes the focus from “my” talents, time, earnings, house, and car; it discards “my” plans and lays the glory at the feet of Jesus. It is Kingdom-driven. It is freedom to manage assets with a clear goal of advancing the Kingdom of God. As a Believer longing to someday hear, “Well done, My good and faithful servant,” how I handle what the Lord has entrusted to me matters.

This concept is a paradigm shift from me to Thee.

WEEK FOUR

DAY FIVE

The Miracle of a
Generous Heart
Daily Devotionals

Prepared by: Katy Giroux
for October 29, 2021

THE HABIT OF GENEROSITY

“One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withhold unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:24-25

During my time as an adult, I can honestly say that I have seen more generosity from mankind as a whole during the past two years than I ever have before. The Coronavirus has brought more fear, loss, and division than I have ever seen but it has also allowed me to see numerous acts of kindness and generosity within our community and beyond. Teachers have gone above and beyond to provide opportunities to connect with their students in unconventional ways such as providing parades, families and friends go out of their way to coordinate drive-by birthday celebrations, and stores have set aside specific times for senior citizens to shop to ensure their safety. Surely your heart was filled with warmth and hope seeing others go out of their way to extend unconventional generosity, just as mine was!

Although, should we really be so surprised by these acts of kindness? God made us in His image, in His likeness and we know that he is the Giver of All! He so freely gives to us and blesses us even to the point of giving His own Son for us. So if all this is true, why are these random acts of kindness and overflowing acts of generosity such a surprise to us?

Let us take this season of life and allow it to spur on a habit of generosity. Everyone has different resources they can give freely of. Maybe it is your time--how can you use your time to bless others? Visit a local school and be a volunteer to read to young children! Maybe it is your talent/gifting--ask the church how you can serve that utilizes your talents! Maybe it is your physical resource of money--tithe to the church or seek out local charitable organizations!

Just as we have been refreshed by the acts of kindness and generosity brought on by the Coronavirus, we will be refreshed by making generosity a habit of our lives. I ask that you take time to sit and reflect on how you are reflecting God's character of generosity in your daily life. Pray that He will open our eyes and soften our hearts to opportunities to bless others with our time, talents, and resources so that others may know Him more.

WEEK FOUR

DAY SIX

The Miracle of a
Generous Heart
Daily Devotionals

Prepared by: Richard Rogers
for October 30, 2021

A HARVEST IS COMING

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." 2 Corinthians 9:10

As you begin your time with the Lord today, stop and ask Him to make Himself clear to you.

We often view life as a series of events connected only by the randomness of timing or by our latest decisions. We see a sequence in time but may not draw a direct line of God's Providence running throughout our lives and the events we experience. In this passage Paul places before you a thought connecting the work of a seed, the result of a harvest and the provision of bread. While we know these are directly attached, because of time and distance we might experience them in a disconnected manner. Do you think of the farmer planting when you buy bread, bake bread or eat bread? I know I don't. Do you think of the investment of time, resources, and effort that went into the planting and harvesting of the grain?

It is easy to see God's provision as disconnected from previous events. But Paul connects them when he says God will increase your seed for sowing and multiply your harvest in righteousness. What are the seeds for sowing God has given to you? Think time, talents, abilities, relationships, resources and experiences. When these are placed in the right soil at the right time, Paul says they will result in a harvest. But not any old harvest. One of your righteousness. Remember that "righteousness" is a state of glorious harmony between you and God as well as a growing harmony with others. When we invest what He has given in His work, He causes a harvest to grow. It might take time. It might seem disconnected in place. Rest assured...a harvest is coming.

Spend a few minutes in prayer seeking leadership for sowing and awareness of harvests.