

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

2019.11.3



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —*Psalm 145:11*
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —*Joshua 22:5*

Questions for Discussion & Application

- TCC's purpose is to "*transform ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Christ*". From Luke 6:27-38, develop a "profile of an extraordinary follower of Christ".

Think of a person you have a difficult time loving—but don't give his name!
Could you envision yourself doing good toward them? **Why or why not?**

- According to the following verses, what is the big thing God is doing in our lives?
Romans 8:29 2 Corinthians 3:18 2 Corinthians 4:16

How does being generous fit with God's processes?

- Does it surprise you that God uses rewards as an incentive for doing good (Luke 6:35)?
Why or why not?

Does being motivated by rewards seem "*unspiritual*" to you? Why or why not?

What else do you learn about rewards from the following verses?

Ephesians 6:1-3 Proverbs 11:18; 19:17 Galatians 6:8-9

- Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Have you given yourself fully to God? **How** do you know?

What areas are you tempted to say to God, "No, that's mine!"?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17. How does the gospel shed light on this?

- Which statement is truer of your experience: "The love of things keeps me from giving more."
or "Giving more keeps me from loving things"?

What evidence would you point to?

Application-Challenge

Begin applying these Biblical principles of generosity to your life this week, and begin experiencing the many benefits God promises.

Take One Step: What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



Sermon Summary

Key Passage: Luke 6:27-38

The Greek word, οἰκονομία, means “to manage resources owned by another”, and so I’ve entitled this series “Oikonomics 101”. Truth is, all that we have belongs to God. During the next several weeks we are going to learn how to properly manage those God-given resources. Today we are going to talk about cultivating a lifestyle of generosity.

Luke 6:27-38 makes it clear that generosity is meant to define our lifestyle. This behavior is modeled by our Heavenly Father and, if we follow it, will clearly set us apart from how the world lives. We also see that generosity will reap many benefits. It’s not an accident that some people seem to be blessed in life and others are not. So, how do we develop a lifestyle of generosity—the kind of life Jesus is advocating in Luke 6? Give yourself totally to God. A lifestyle of generosity begins when I give myself totally to Jesus Christ. In Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth, he made a very interesting statement concerning the churches in that region: They were very poor, yet they were known for their great generosity (2 Corinthians 8:1–5). Paul talks about both their affliction and their abundance of joy! Those things don’t seem to go together, do they? There is something different going on at this church! Paul adds that they gave “beyond their ability”. How can a person give more than they have? The answer is found in verse 5: “They first gave themselves to the Lord”.

A lifestyle of generosity, like that displayed by the churches of Macedonia, like the kind Jesus spoke of in Luke chapter 6, always begins with putting God first in your life, submitting your will to his will. Until that happens, you are going to struggle with being generous toward others. Once you have done that, everything else comes easy. Until you have done that, everything is a struggle, because you are still on the throne of your life. Sadly, many Christians never learn this principle. Do you know what the height of ingratitude is? The height of ingratitude is for God to give you something or to give me something, and then for us to put a fence around it and act as if it is ours, and be unwilling to share it with others. We become stingy and possessive rather than generous and openhanded. One of the first things we must learn is that everything you and I have is a gift from God. Even life itself is a gift. If we are going to cultivate a lifestyle of generosity, the first thing we’re going to have to do is give ourselves fully to God. Once we have done that, we will be generous toward others.

We also need to learn the benefits of biblical giving.

1. Giving makes me more like God. (John 3:16)
2. Giving draws me closer to God. We could rephrase Matthew 6:21 in this way: “Where your checkbook is, there your heart will be also.” If you want to determine what you really value in life, look at your checkbook. Does it reflect a commitment to eternal goals, or does it reflect a disproportionate concern with temporal issues? If our church is to have the impact that we all desire, we are going to have to make sacrifices to see it happen. As we give financially to promote eternal goals we draw closer to God, because our heart will follow our treasure. It is a biblical principle.
3. Giving is the antidote to materialism. (1 Timothy 6:17-18)
4. Giving strengthens my faith. (Luke 6:38) People occasionally ask me, “Doug, How much should I give?” My response is, “How much do you want to receive?” As we give it tends to come back to us, and it strengthens our faith—knowing that we can be generous and trust that God will provide for us. Unfortunately some of us seem to suffer from a disease called “cirrhosis of the giver!” We are stingy! If you close your hands around your God-given resources, God may take your stewardship away from you.
5. Giving is an investment for eternity. (1 Timothy 6:17–19) “You cannot take it with you—but you can send it on ahead!” Someone once said, “Do your givin’ while you’re livin’—then you’re knowin’ where it’s goin’!”
6. Giving blesses me in return. (Proverbs 22:9; Psalm 112:5-6).
7. Giving makes me happy. (Acts 20:35). In this world there are two kinds of people. There are givers and there are takers. Have you noticed that givers always seem to be the happiest? It’s true.

God has called us to a lifestyle of generosity. He wants us to live differently than the world lives. As followers of Jesus Christ we should be distinguished by our generosity, by our willingness to forgive, our willingness to share, our willingness to do good to those who are undeserving of that kind of generosity. God wants us to imitate Him in this regard—for if God is anything, he is generous!

He has designed the universe in a way that generosity begets generosity. In other words, it is to our benefit to be generous! That is where the irony comes in. The stingier we are, the more we cling to our stuff, the less we will tend to have. So let’s imitate our Father in heaven. Let’s learn to be generous in all that we do.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any topic. Let's use it to learn more about generosity...

Monday— Study 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Tuesday— Study Matthew 5:42-45

Wednesday— Study Luke 3:10-11

Thursday— Study Romans 12:8

Friday— Study 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study Matthew 6:24.

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]