

# **The Power of Generosity (wk3)**

(God Empowers us to be Generous)

P. Theresa and guests speaker Giscelle Rosario

Synopsis: Join us this Sunday for an inspiring message on the incredible results and effectiveness of giving. We'll explore how your generosity can have an eternal impact, not only through monetary contributions but also through the priceless gifts of time, love, and kindness. Discover the beautiful ripple effect your acts of giving can create, spreading God's love and transforming lives. Come and unlock the power of generosity in your life, as we delve into the profound joy and lasting influence it can bring to both you and the world around you. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how your giving can truly make a difference.

## **Major Point 1 - it's not about the size but the heart behind the gift; quality of the heart vs quantity of the gift**

- Last week P Earl mentioned **The Widow's Offering**
- "41 Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. 42 Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. 43 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. 44 For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44 NLT)
- **The Collection for the Lord's People**
- "8 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us." (2 Corinthians 8:1-5 NIV)
- This is true for all types of gifts—time, talents, and treasures.
- Be generous in words of encouragement and edification, deeds, listening, serving, etc.
- The bible mentions tithe but that was just a standard; Jesus' desire is to go beyond the standard.

- We are not just talking about money. The greatest treasure we have is our time. You can always make more money but time you can't get back; AMEN?
- Sometimes God even asks us to give generously in ways that aren't natural for us, like the poor woman, giving finances that she didn't have.
- Practically speaking, like right now, Giscelle stepping out in faith and giving of herself to be used to minister in the word today
- When you make your self available (F.A.T.), God is the one empowering you to be generous.
- This is often called Living out of the overflow: giving what you are naturally able to give and then by the power of the Holy Spirit giving beyond
- Giscelle EXAMPLE: How I feel when I talk to people as an introvert. (My social battery or social capacity) This is something God is working on in me.
- Journal entry 11/5/22 - God said, "I made you the way you are for a reason. You are more intrinsic than others, often deep in thought. You require more time to yourself. It is not in your nature to look outward towards others. But what little you may think you give, I see it as a great act of giving because I know how little you have. I want you now to learn to rely on me. You are no longer self-sufficient. I can help you be so much more as long as you let me."
- That's what #loveourcity2023 is all about. It's helping us go beyond what we are normally doing or comfortable doing.
- I know some are wary of posting photos and I understand that. P Earl spoke last week about not letting your right hand know what your left hand is doing and it's a good warning so we would always make sure our hearts' motive is right.
- This morning I want us to see another perspective

## **Major Point 2 - It's not about you, it's about what God brings through you**

- James 1:17 Holman Christian Standard Bible
- "17 Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning."
- That's why for #loveourcity2023 you can creatively post photos so you aren't in the photo and the caption is giving God Glory for what HE is doing

- Show pics of what has been submitted for #loveourcity2023
- When you post a picture, don't make it about you. Make it about what God is doing through you. We are just mere earthen vessels (broken vessels)
- (*Giscelle*) If you're worried that others will see you as self-centered then you are because by worrying about that, you are making it about yourself
- If you're thinking about yourself and how others perceive you then you're not thinking about what God is doing in that moment
- Mom: everything and anything that is good within me is God; so even now when we're preaching, in my mind it's all God, and therefore HE gets the credit because it's not about me. It truly is choosing to fix your mind on right things.
- James 1:17 shows us that the power to give comes from God (comes from above) and moves through us to accomplish his will on earth and bring HIM glory.
- I love the Examples of types of photos we can post (IM)
- When you understand where the true power comes from then it's easy to not make it about you.

### **Major Point 3 - It's not just about the impact now but the ripple effects of impact into the future**

- 2 Corinthians 9
  - o "2 For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving (2 Corinthians 9:2 NLT).
  - o **Ripple effect 1:** stirs up others to give of themselves as well
  - o 5 So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly (v. 5).
  - o 6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

- Amplified the classic version (v.7-8): 7 Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, “prompt to do it”) giver [whose heart is in his giving].
- 8 And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need, be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].
- WOW!!! So what stops folks from giving in this manner?
- Scarcity mindset v. abundance
- The effects or the power of when we do give generously is that it will be remembered forever. Let’s continue to read at v.9
- 9 As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”
- And here it is again, where does the gift come from? Read v. 10
- 10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.
- 11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.
- **Ripple effect 2:** glory and thanks given to God
- This passage of scripture is in context of giving financially; to wrap up I want to highlight and show this ripple effect when we give of our time generously
- P Mike sowed seeds of time in us
- We sowed seeds of time in Jayanne and Chris
- Who unknowingly and knowingly sowed seeds into my kids
- Who now are leading the worship team at an even greater level and sowing seeds into the next generation
- Montage of pictures of fall fest; pic of worship ministry from 20 years ago

## OG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Spend time to invite the manifest presence into your discussion. Then, pray and ask Holy Spirit to search your heart in regards to your level of generosity. What is Holy Spirit revealing to you?
2. What do you believe is the difference between humility and false humility? If you struggle to share about what God is doing through your life, how can you grow and change in this area? What do you see God doing through your life right now? What do you sense God wants to do through your life that requires you to step on on faith?
3. Discuss the difference of a scarcity mindset vs. abundance mindset. Which way do you tend to lean towards? How can you grow in having an abundance mindset? Look up scripture together that will build your faith that God provides and wants you to live in abundance.
4. What seeds were sown that became ripples effects for your life? What are the ripple effects God is creating through your life as you sow seeds of time, talent or treasure?