



IMITATING A GENEROUS GOD, PART 1

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 6:19-24

Intro:

Every problem should be viewed through multiple frames.

Example: An organization should be viewed through four frames (Structural, Human Resources, Political, Symbolic).

The same principle applies to viewing our wealth: Money is not merely material. Money is a spiritual issue.

Matthew 6:19-24

“Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth 'thrown in': aim at Earth and you will get neither.” ~C.S. Lewis

You will either love God and use money, or you will love money and use God.

Generosity is one of the most basic responses to the gospel (1 John 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 8:9)

1. God is a Generous God

Life is a gift (Numbers 16:22)

Salvation is a “free gift” (Romans 6:23)

The Holy Spirit is a “gift” (Acts 2:38) and a “deposit” (2 Corinthians 1:22)

God gives us the ability to create wealth (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

All we have came from God (1 Corinthians 4:7)

Every good gift is from God (James 1:17)

2. We are meant to imitate God's generosity

Ephesians 5:1; 2 Corinthians 9:11

We are meant to be the “middle man”, passing God's blessing on to others.

Acts 20:35

The source of Bethel Church's resources is not people; it's God.

3. Generosity is about sowing, not spending

2 Corinthians 9:6

Farmers don't *spend* seed; they *sow* it. They also don't eat all their seed.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Conclusion:

Through which frame are you seeing your money? Material or spiritual?

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Have you ever thought of money as being a spiritual issue? Did Sunday's sermon help you think differently about money?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read the following passages. Notice the use of the word "gift" and the other monetary language. What do these passages say about God's generosity toward us? Numbers 16:22; Romans 6:23; Acts 2:38; 2 Corinthians 1:22; James 1:17.
2. Read Deuteronomy 8:11-20. What is God saying to Israel? What makes us believe, at times, that we alone are responsible for our wealth? Why is it hard to trust God with our money?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. The Corinthians had promised to participate in an offering which would help needy churches elsewhere. Paul is encouraging them to fulfill their promise generously. Why is Paul using a farming metaphor? Why is generosity more like "sowing" than it is like "spending"? What kind of "harvest" do we reap when we sow generously? Is it monetary? What else?

Application:

1. What will generosity look like moving forward for you as you consider the needs of your church and your community?

Prayer:

1. Pray for joyful hearts as you give generously.
2. Other Requests
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