

Doing a 180° - Turning around & getting life right
Week 5 – Giving instead of taking - The power of generosity
March 26, 2006

Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given. *Luke chapter 12, verse 48 (795)*

1. Begin to gain some perspective of material things in this world and in your life.

- ✓ About 80% are living without heat, running water and /or electricity.
- ✓ About 70% lack basic education.
- ✓ About 50% are currently malnourished.
- ✓ About 50% are not allowed to worship freely.
- ✓ If you have clothes to wear, food in refrigerator, a roof over your head & spare change in your pocket, you are currently wealthier than about 85% of the world's population.
- ✓ The typical American today is currently in the top 15% of the world's wealthiest people.

Don't feel guilty for being blessed, be grateful.

2. My perspective of material things can be a huge barrier to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Zacchaeus

Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have overcharged people on their taxes, **I will give** them back four times as much!" Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a son of Abraham. *Luke chapter 19, verses 8-9(801)*

- Rich young ruler

"There is still one thing you lack," Jesus said. "Sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." **But when the man heard this, he became sad because he was very rich.**

Luke chapter 18, verses 22-23 (800)

3. Is my heart captured by the material?

- Am I looking for fulfillment through money & possessions?
- Do I regularly invite God into my financial decisions?
- Do I have desire to learn what the Bible teaches about money & possessions?
- Is giving to others in need and to God a financial priority for me?
- Do my expenses regularly exceed my income?
- Do I envy the life and the stuff that other people have?
- Am I content with what I have?
- Am I grateful to God for giving it to me?

4. Acknowledge that material things can't satisfy you.

For my people have done two evil things: They have forsaken Me - the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!

Jeremiah chapter 2, verse 13 (571)

5. The source of my money & possessions must determine how they are used.

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth. *Deuteronomy chapter 8, verses 17-18 (146)*

- ✓ Gratefully acknowledge all that God has given you.
- ✓ Enjoy the gifts he has given you.
- ✓ Regularly ask Him how he wants you to use all he has given you.
- ✓ Ask God for a generous heart.

Q. Will owning this new thing keep me from being the generous person God wants me to be?

6. If you let him, God will begin to unleash the power of generosity in your life.

- The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. *Proverbs chapter 11, verse 25 (488)*

- God blesses the generous.
- God brings fulfillment through our generosity.
- We may never know how our giving impacts the lives of others.

If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving - large or small - it will be used to measure what is given back to you.“

Luke chapter 6, verse 38 (786)

- You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. For your generosity to them will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.

2 Corinthians chapter 9, verse 13 (887)

- When you are generous, you identify yourself with Jesus Christ.
- Generous giving requires faith on the part of the giver.
- You are never more like God than when you are giving.

For God so loved the world that He gave his only son...

John chapter 3, verse 16 (811)