

Generous Living

Scripture passage: Read aloud Luke 21:1-4

These verses acknowledge that the condition of the heart, not the size of the gift, is what is important. Love should be the motivation for giving. John Wesley was convinced there is a direct connection between our discipleship and the use of our financial resources.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you see a connection between your relationship with money and your relationship with God?
2. Why is giving a matter of the heart, and why does giving cheerfully matter?
3. Do you believe that the motivation behind our generosity really matters to God? Why or why not?
4. What is the relationship between our giving and God's mission to make disciples of the world?
5. In your own words, how would you explain the biblical discipline of tithing?
6. What has changed in your relationship with God and money over time?
7. John Wesley laid out three simple rules in his sermon "The Use of Money". Discuss your understanding of each. See also page 49-50
 - Gain All You Can
 - Save All You Can
 - Give All You Can
8. What blessings have resulted from your willingness to give?

Moving Forward:

We reflect God's love through our lives of generosity in spirit and in practice. We give in loving response to God's gifts to us and do so intentionally and sacrificially to bless the lives of others.

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, we recognize that you are the giver of all things and we praise you. Thanks you for the abilities, talents, resources, and life that you have given each of us. May we be grateful and have wisdom to know how to be a steward of those resources to support our families, the church, and the needs of the world. May we have the knowledge of your will and have the power to carry it out. Amen.

Prepare:

- Read Chapter 5: The Way of Service: *Spiritual Gifts and Gifts-based Service*
- Review Spiritual Gifts Sheet
- If you are not sure of your spiritual gift, you may take the assessment at <http://survey.adultstudies.com/>
- Get together with your prayer partner to share your prayer needs for the coming week. Pray together.