

Sunday 11th January
Clay McGregor



Key Scriptures

Luke 10:25-37

Malachi 3:10

Matthew 7:12

John 4:19

John 3:16

RADICAL *Generosity*

Key points

1. People may think of themselves as generous because they give, but not all giving is truly generous.
2. People give for all kinds of reasons, not all of these loving or selfless.
3. True generosity comes from a heart of compassion, that loves others more than self.
4. Legalism and obedience move us to give and do only as much as the law requires.
5. A generous heart compels us to give because we love, not because God commands it.
6. God promises throughout scripture to reward generosity but if this is our motivation then it ceases to be truly selfless generosity.
7. The biblical word from which we get the English “charity” means an unearned gracious gift.
8. A generous heart compels us to give because we love, not because we owe it.
9. We should give to God because we love Him and want to honour Him; we should give to the Church because we love the Bride of Christ and want her to have everything she needs to fulfil her mission; and we should give to people in need because we love our neighbour as ourself.

Questions

1. Do you think of yourself as a generous person? If so why?
2. Discuss what might motivate someone to give...
 - a. Four hours on a Sunday morning to play guitar in a church worship service?
 - b. \$20 for a school fundraising raffle for a new pool.
 - c. 10% of their salary to the Church?
3. Why did the Samaritan act generously?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose a Samaritan, of all people, to star in this parable?
5. What excuses hold us back from acting generously?
6. How much of our/your righteousness is driven by obedience/guilt rather than love?
7. How much of our/your giving is driven by an expectation of reward, from God or others?
8. How much of a hold does the love of money have on your heart do you think?
 - a. How would you respond if Jesus told you to sell it all and give it to the poor?
9. How can we transform our hearts to become truly generous?

Have a question about or thought on something in this message? Get in touch with Clay, he'd love to hear from you, clay@therock.org.nz

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