

Sunday 18th January
Clay McGregor

Key Scriptures

Acts 2:1-4, 44-45; 4:34-37

1 Chronicles 29:11-17

Romans 2:14-15

Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

2 Corinthians 11:7-9, Philippians 4:15-16, Acts 28:10-11; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

Acts 11:27-30, Romans 15:25-28; 2 Corinthians 8

1 Thessalonians 2:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

Matthew 6:24-26

Luke 12:13-21



RADICAL *Generosity*

Main Points

1. Generous giving was a foundational principle and practice of the New Testament church.
2. Our perspective on property and possession is warped, everything is God's.
3. New Testament giving is an overflow of adoration and honour to God.
4. A lifestyle of generous giving was the consistent teaching and practice of the NT church [10 specific references in Acts; many others throughout Paul's writings and other books].
5. We are not giving to the church, we are giving to God.
6. Giving means letting go, when we let go we need to release it for those with church stewardship to use it as they determine.
7. The financial priorities of the New Testament church were: 1. The material needs of the poor in the local church family [widows and orphans]. 2. Supporting fulltime church ministers. 3. The material needs of churches in famine struck regions.
8. Maintaining and growing this kingdom work requires God's people to give generously.
9. The more we allow the resource God puts in our hands to flow through us the more opportunity we give God to bless us and others through us. Resource flowing through us also purifies us from greed.

Questions

1. What did you hear from God in this message?
2. Do you wish you were a more generous person?
3. What obstacles do you face in living generously?
4. If you contribute financially through The Rock why do you do so?
5. Would you describe The Rock as a generous community? How could we be more so?
6. Why do people withhold giving from the church/God?
7. What do you think is the righteous response of a member of The Rock family who has concerns about our financial stewardship?
8. Discuss initiatives to help your group become more generous and practice these principles.

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

Other NT Generosity verses -

Acts 2:44-45

Acts 4:32-37

Acts 5:1-4

Act 6:1-6

Acts 9:36

Acts 10:1-4

Acts 11:27-30

Acts 20:33-35

Acts 24:23

Acts 28:10-11

Romans 12:13

Romans 15:25-28

Romans 16:1-2

1 Corinthians 16:1-3

2 Corinthians 8:1-24

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

2 Corinthians 11:7-9

2 Corinthians 12:13-17

Galatians 2:9-10

Ephesians 4:28

Philippians 4:10-19

1 Thessalonians 2:9

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

1 Timothy 5:1-18

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Titus 3:13-14

Hebrews 13:16

James 2:14-16

1 John 3:17-18