

Reflecting God's Generosity

1 Tim 6:17-19

Reflecting God's Generosity

- Developing understanding of generosity
 - Everything we have is a gift from God.
 - We are called to be wise stewards of all God's gifts
 - Giving God our first fruits of all He's given us.

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- Those who are rich in this present world must be on watch for:
 - Arrogance.
 - Putting their hope in wealth (idolatry)
- Money has a way of competing for our heart.
- Money wants to become our god- where we find value, worthy, security and hope. It becomes how we measure others too.

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- When money becomes our god- it is never satisfied.
- The pursuit of more closes our hearts to God and to others.
- Money promises happiness but our world is full of wealthy people who are anything but happy.
- Money is uncertain.
- The amount of money we have can change without us using any.
- We bring nothing into this world and we take nothing out.

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- What are your needs?
- What are your current wants?
- Advertisers are good at turning 'wants' to 'needs.'
- Are there any 'needs' you're pursuing that are really 'wants'?

- Go home today and see how many 'needs' are lying around your life.

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- God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.
- God wants us to enjoy life.
- What does it look like to you to 'enjoy life?'
- What does an enjoyable life look like to God?

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- As followers of Jesus we are commanded to:
 - Do good-deeds. Things that align with God's heart.
 - Be rich in good deeds. Have an abundance of, be overflowing in good deeds.
 - Be generous- ready and willing to give to needs
 - Share- with others. Recognize our common bonds and be willing to spend God's blessings on others.

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- The enjoyable life, a rich life, according to God looks like:
 - Doing good.
 - A life overflowing with good deeds.
 - Being generous with all God has given you- ready to act
 - Sharing with others- recognizing our common bonds
- Rich as defined by the world: always accumulate more and better. Never be content. Hoard. Deny yourself nothing. Consider and take care of yourself first.

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- The world says the rich are those who can grab as big of a piece as possible of the things of this life. Me-centered. Give only after you have what you want.
- God defines being rich as in giving away the blessings of God. We are to be a river of blessings to those around us. Ready and willing to give.

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- Doing good and being rich in good deeds, being generous and sharing can be practiced at all income levels. 2 Cor 9:8
- In a season where we are feeling the pinch of finances may we stay faithful to God
 - Giving God our first fruits, what we have heard him tell us to give.
 - For those less affected by the economics of today- may our plenty supply our church's needs.

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- Giving is:
 - An act of worship. A way to thank and acknowledge all we have is a gift from God.
 - It breaks the hold of money and wealth on our hearts
 - Teaches us to depend on God. Gives Him space to act.
 - Is a spiritual discipline- something we must practice.
 - Helps us distinguish between a 'need' and 'want'
 - Another way we participate in God's mission.

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- May we give generously of all that God gives us.
 - May we give according to our income 1 Cor 16:2
- It is not about the amount but the heart behind the amount. Even the smallest offering can make a huge impact in God's hands. (Think of the loaves and fish)
- May we be rich in good deeds, generosity and sharing with one another.
- Together we can be the means God meets all the needs of HOPE so His work can continue through our community.