

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

5/14/17

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Title: Stewardship #3: Grace Abounding

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Tim finished our three-part series on stewardship as we looked at God's Grace Abounding to those who would be generous. As Tim has said for the past few weeks, God's ownership of everything shows us that we "ought to give" and be generous; the power of sin and wealth to rule over our hearts shows us that we "need to give" in order to free our hearts; and now, seeing God's love, sacrifice, and abounding grace to those who are generous, we realize that we "want to give" with a generous heart to build God's kingdom.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. Tim compared God's overflow of generosity to his people to a Champaign Pyramid. As the top glass fills it overflows, filling the glasses below it...and so on.*
 - **In what ways have you seen God overflow you with his generosity and you couldn't help but be generous to others in return?**
 - **In what ways have you increased the size of your glass rather than let it overflow in generosity to others? (Read Luke 12:16-21 for inspiration)**
- 2. Tim said that treasure in our heart is like a thermometer or scale, it can reveal our inner problems. Jesus assigned Judas to watch over all the money, and he ultimately stole it and betrayed Jesus. An accountant would call that irresponsible money management, but Jesus used the money as a thermometer for Judas' heart.*
 - **What has God given you abundantly or sparingly in terms of Money, Power or Approval?**
 - **How has God used that as a thermometer to reveal the treasures of your heart?**
- 3. Tim said that our desire as a church is for your home and your business to be an outpost of the gospel. That you would develop a heart of generosity to share your money, your home, your clothing, your dinner table, your knowledge, your skills...etc, in order to bless and bring the gospel of Jesus to every corner of our city.*
 - **"God loves a cheerful ("Hilarious") giver." When have you had the most fun being generous?**
 - **When do you feel most reluctant or under compulsion to be generous? Why?**
 - **Pray for Holy Spirit to work in your heart to help you be joyful in generosity.**

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A.C.T.S.

(Take time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas, then spend some time in prayer, confession and worship as a group. Begin with the ACTS questions and use the prayer items from the worship folder as suggestions if you're having a hard time coming up with answers.)

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions?

Worship the LORD, that "He is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He claims us as His own children, and provides for us so abundantly.

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of or ways in which you are finite and limited?

How have you lived doubting God's ownership of you, His promises or His track record of care? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and free you from the trap of self-interest.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for loving you and working to save you, as no one else can. Thank Him for His work to take away all that is wrong with you by His death, and investing in you by the gift of His indwelling Spirit.

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of love and joy. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you grow and excel in the grace of giving, by His transforming love.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through this sermon?

Who do you know that is joyless and selfish? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them in their heart to know that they "could be enriched in every way to be generous in every way."