

SERMON NOTES

Less is More - 04.21.24

Goal: To allow God to change our mindset when it comes to giving. When we bring our first and our best, we trust God to bless the rest.

Scripture: *2 Corinthians 8, 9:8, John 3:16, Haggai 1:6, Deuteronomy 28:8, Malachi 3:10*

Overview:

It's more blessed to give than it is to receive. God so loved the world that He gave (John 3:16).

God is Love + God Gives = Loves Gives

We want to give. But many of us have a problem... It's not a money problem, though, it's a **mindset problem**. The Macedonians were in a really difficult time of life (living in poverty and suffering) and yet in their poverty they were still generous, and in their suffering they still had joy. This is because they were giving. They had the barn (more than enough) mindset. A Bag (scarcity) mindset: No matter what comes in it is like the bag's got a hole in it, and at the end of the month there's nothing left in the bag.

God gives, God supplies, you get paid, you get an increase, God supplies. We consume, we spend it, we go out, we're on Amazon, click, buy, click, buy. We lack, we fear. We're afraid, The cycle continues.

But with a barn mindset: You give first. When we bring our first and our best, we trust God to bless the rest. You rearrange your whole life around God because He wants to be first. 90% with His blessings goes further than a 100% percent without.

Application:

What do we do in our valley?

1. **Rearrange**
2. **Reprioritize**
3. **Allow God to change your mindset**

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the concept of "Love Gives" resonate with you personally? Can you share a situation where you experienced the joy of giving or receiving unexpectedly?
2. Reflecting on the Macedonian churches' generosity despite their extreme poverty, what do you think enabled them to give so generously? How does their example challenge your own perspective on giving?
3. The sermon discusses two mindsets: the "bag mindset" (scarcity) and the "barn mindset" (more than enough). Which mindset do you find yourself leaning towards more often, and why? What steps can you take to shift towards a "barn mindset" in your life?
4. Have you ever experienced a time when giving sacrificially led to unexpected blessings or provision in your life? How did that experience impact your faith or perspective on giving?
5. Reflecting on the statement "More money won't make you more generous, it'll make you more of what you already are," do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? How can we cultivate a generous heart regardless of our financial situation?