THE RIDGE / SERMON ON THE MOUNT

When You Give

Matthew 6:1-4

BIG IDEA: Kingdom generosity isn't about being seen giving. It's about knowing the Father sees.

Opening truth: We can do the right thing for the wrong reason. Matthew 5:16 calls us to glorify God; Matthew 6:1 warns us not to seek glory for ourselves.

1. GOD CARES ABOUT WHY YOU GIVE

Scriptures: Matthew 6:1; 1 Samuel 16:7

We see the gift; God sees the giver. We see the action; God sees the motive.

Heart question: If nobody knew you did it, would you still do it?

2. GENEROSITY IS EXPECTED IN THE KINGDOM

Scriptures: Matthew 6:2; Psalm 24:1

Jesus says when you give. Everything we have ultimately belongs to God, and we are stewards of what He places in our hands.

Remember: Don't confuse possession with ownership. Trust the Father, not the fries.

Ask: Father, what do You want me to do with what You've placed in my hands?

GENEROSITY AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Galatians 6:6

Giving is not just a financial decision; it is a discipleship decision. Our goal is not a bigger bank account, but greater kingdom impact.

At The Ridge: Growing in attendance is not the same as growing in discipleship. We desire to make disciples, serve people, develop leaders, support missions, and plant churches.

My response to God's invitation to faithful stewardship:

When You Give / Continued

Matthew 6:1-4

3. DON'T TURN GENEROSITY INTO PERFORMANCE

Scripture: Matthew 6:2

It is possible to turn something meant to honor God into something that brings attention to ourselves.

Key question: Whose approval do I actually want?

4. SECRET GENEROSITY REVEALS YOUR REAL AUDIENCE

Scripture: Matthew 6:3-4

People may never know what you did or what it cost, but your Father sees. God sees not only what we give, but why we give.

Object lesson: Closed fists cling tightly to what we have; open hands represent faithful stewardship.

Remember: Not empty pockets. Open hands.

THE GOSPEL IS THE FOUNDATION OF GENEROSITY

Scriptures: John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 8:9

We do not give to earn God's love or salvation. We give in response to the grace He has already given through Jesus Christ.

Key truth: Grace changes your grip.

THREE QUESTIONS TO TAKE HOME

1. Would I still do it if nobody knew?
2. Whose approval am I seeking?
3. What am I holding too tightly?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Give something and don't tell anybody. Find someone with a need and quietly bless them with your resources, time, or service. Do it without seeking recognition.

Closing reminder: The source isn't the carton. The source is the Father. Trust the Father, not the fries.