

# Sermon Guide



## “Sacrificial Generosity”

May 14, 2023

“... Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come near to me.’ And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down.”

1 Kings 18

1. **When we talk about generosity, we often focus exclusively on money. Yet, God gives us a variety of opportunities to be generous: we can be generous with our 1) time, 2) influence, 3) words, 4) money and 5) resources.** Which of these categories is God highlighting for you?
2. **JC said that we are tempted to offer God the excess of our lives rather than live sacrificially.** Does that statement resonate with you? How so?
3. **JC said we offer our generosity on one of two altars: the altar of self or the altar of God.** He then said, “When we offer our resources on the altar of self, it leads to death.” Can you think of an example of this from your own life?

**Prayer Prompt:** Jamie Winship, a former police officer, gives us a powerful reframe of the word “confession.” He says, “When I was a police officer and had to arrest somebody, I would bring them in and ask for a confession. I didn’t ask them for an apology. [Often within the church], we teach confession as though it were just saying, ‘I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry.’ It resolves nothing. Confession is telling God the truth about what we really believe about Him, ourselves, and others. Hiding the truth [of what we really believe] always makes us slaves. If we will not tell the truth about our hearts and beliefs, we continue in bondage to the lie, the deception, and the rationalization. Acknowledging the truth of what we believe opens the way for repentance and for our reality to be transformed by God’s truth.”

Spend some time in prayer and confession related to generosity. Often times we try to produce better fruit without going through the process of telling the truth about the soil of our lives. That keeps us from depending on Him for transformation. What do you need to confess to Him? What do you really believe about generosity? Or perhaps about a next step of faith He might be calling you to take? What truth might God be speaking in the silence? Confess and listen.