

Sermon Guide



“Generosity: Evidence of Grace”

March 12, 2023

³¹ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴

Matthew 25:31-46

1. **Rick said, “Generosity never earns salvation in Christ. Salvation in Christ is evidenced by generosity.”** What are the gifts and resources God has entrusted to you? How might you grow in stewarding them for His Kingdom?
2. **Rick shared the story of Corie Ten Boom. Her family was betrayed by a neighbor. They were then sent to concentration camps. Throughout her life, Corie learned to bless and forgive the people who harmed her family.** Are there people in your life you feel are beyond your forgiveness? Share.
3. **Rick challenged us to serve beyond the walls of the church. Serving within the church is “too easy” and fails to bring God’s love to the world.** Think about your own life. What ways are you equipped to serve outside the walls of the church? Are there ways you might grow in that?

Prayer Prompt (if time permits): We talked about forgiveness. God calls each of us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Often, we don’t feel ready to forgive those who harmed us. Yet, God calls us to forgiveness. (Note: if you have experienced trauma or relational abuse, share with a mentor or counselor rather than your group to ensure you receive the care and support needed.) As a group, leave some time open to pray blessing over those you have not forgiven. Consider this sample prayer: “God, I’m struggling to forgive. I trust that vengeance is Yours, that all wisdom is Yours, and I ask that you soften my heart. I bless _____. Even if I don’t feel it now, Holy Spirit, help me to bless, forgive, and be healed.” (Note: Avoid sharing names of individuals people in the group know; also avoid pressuring anyone to forgive; let the Holy Spirit do the work.)

We often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus. As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to?