

Generosity – part 2 11/21/21

Pastor Rick - Action

Message Summary:

Generosity begins with Awareness.

Prayer: "I want to experience the joy that comes from being generous. I ask that today an opportunity to be generous will come my way, that I will recognize it when it does, and that I will have the courage to jump in and give."

We can be generous with our thoughts, words, money, influence, time, attention, and belongings.

Generosity is about taking your entire life - everything you are and everything you own - and using it to bless the people around you.

Activating our generosity

The desire to be generous is important, but desire alone does not make us generous. If we want to live a generous life, then we have to get active.

What are you doing to be generous?

What are you going to do today that blesses another person?

We start to see opportunities everywhere.

"Baader-Meinhof phenomenon" or "frequency illusion."

Once we start living generously, our brain will start searching for more opportunities.

Generous people do generous things.

Matthew 14:15-17

Matthew 14:16

"You give them something to eat."

Matthew 14:17

“We only have five loaves of bread and two fish.”
“We don't have enough.”

We allow our limitations to keep us from action.

Why does our desire to be generous not translate into actual generosity? Maybe the real reason is because we allow our limitations to stop us.

Matthew 14:18

Jesus tells the disciples to bring what they have, and give it to him.

The mistake the disciples make is looking at their limitations instead of looking to Jesus.

Jesus does what the disciples could never do on their own, but he doesn't do it until the disciples take a step of action!

“Without God, we cannot. Without us, God will not.” Saint Augustine

What We Have + Who God is = Enough.

How do we do it? How do we move from a desire for generosity to active generosity?

- Start small
- Do something

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you from the message?
2. Share a time when you were blessed by being generous with your time, talents, or treasure. What was the result? How did it make you feel?
3. What encouragement do you receive from the Scriptures shared in this message? Read the passages and make comments.
4. What part do limitations play in your quest to live a more generous life?
5. BONUS: Read the article “Grudges and Generosity” [<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/on-grudges-and-generosity—2>] and share your thoughts with one another.