

CRAZY LIKE US: PART 2, AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION

Most of us are good at random acts of giving. When a need pops up, when someone tells a moving story, or when we feel stirred in the moment, we often respond. Those moments can be good and meaningful, but generosity is more than a random act of giving.

Generosity is something we decide ahead of time. It is a way of organizing our lives around the truth that what we have has been entrusted to us by God. The problem is that many of us live with what the message called "the consumption assumption": if it comes to me, it is for me.

That mindset leads to worry, debt, discontentment, and a life with little margin. Jesus gives us a better way. In Luke 12, He tells a story about a rich man who had more than enough, but assumed everything he had was only for himself. Jesus calls that foolish because generous people do not think like owners and consumers. They think like managers.

BIG IDEA: Generous people don't assume it's theirs to consume.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How much more money would it take for you to alleviate your financial worries?

2. What are some reasons that we spend money we don't have? What are some of the cultural costs of that behavior?

3. During the message, CJ said, "More money does not generate more self-control, discipline, or contentment." Respond to that statement. How does it challenge your assumptions and behavior when it comes to your money?

4. Read Luke 12:16–21. How do you tell the difference between planning financially for the future in a healthy way and hoarding money for your security and consumption? Is there such a thing as being too generous?

5. How would your life be different if you were able to quit worrying about not having enough money or the money you have being taken away? How would that change your financial decision-making?

6. What is one thing you can do this week to begin to trust God with your finances, to live as though everything you have belongs to him? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

If you think and behave like a giver, you'll give more, consume less, and have more left over. Generous people do not assume everything they have is theirs to consume. They recognize that it all belongs to a loving heavenly Father who can be trusted to care for them. You can break the insanity by behaving like and thinking like a giver, not a consumer.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."
Luke 12:20–21