

CREW LEADER GUIDE: WHERE PEACE RULES GENEROSITY FLOWS - LEGACY PART 3

Message Summary:
In this concluding message of the Legacy series, we are challenged to understand generosity not merely as a financial act but as a spiritual expression of a transformed heart. Rooted in the finished work of Jesus Christ, genuine generosity flows from what believers have already received through grace, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. The message encourages us to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and to present ourselves before God as living sacrifices, allowing the love and provision we have received to pass through us to a world in need.

Key Points:
- Legacy is about what we leave behind, including a legacy of faith, hope, devotion to God's house, and commitment to the authority of Scripture
- Generosity is a core attribute of the follower of Jesus Christ and is far broader than financial giving, encompassing love, forgiveness, mercy, patience, and grace
- Generosity begins in the heart, not the wallet, and is a byproduct of a transformed life in Christ
- Giving is an act of worship, not obligation, and should never be done out of guilt or compulsion
- The pace of vision is determined by the generosity of the people, and the church's expansion plans depend on the collective, willing participation of its members
- Wealth does not determine generosity; generosity is a spirit that is cultivated regardless of financial circumstances
- Paul grounds the entire subject of giving in the grace of Jesus Christ, who left the riches of heaven to become poor so that believers might become rich in salvation
- Salvation is received by grace through faith, and the appropriate response to that gift is a life marked by generosity in every dimension

Key Scripture:
- **Colossians 3:15-17**, where Paul urges believers to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts and to do everything in the name of Jesus with gratitude
- **2 Corinthians 9**, where Paul teaches that each person must give as they have decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver
- **Matthew 23**, where Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for tithing meticulously while neglecting the weightier matters of justice, mercy, and faithfulness
- **Hebrews 13**, which instructs believers not to neglect doing good and sharing, as such sacrifices please God
- **1 John 3:16-18**, where the apostle connects genuine love with tangible acts of generosity, warning against loving only in word and not in deed
- **Romans 5:8**, where God demonstrates his love in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us
- **2 Corinthians 8:9**, where Paul reminds the Corinthians that Christ, though rich, became poor so that through his poverty believers might become rich



Discussion and Reflection

1. Ps. Jesse describes generosity as beginning in the heart rather than the wallet. In what ways have you experienced generosity that had nothing to do with money, and how did it reflect the character of God?
2. Paul writes in Colossians 3 that we should 'let' the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, implying we have a choice in yielding to God. What areas of your life do you find most difficult to surrender, and what does that resistance reveal about where your trust truly lies?
3. A distinction is made between giving out of obligation or guilt versus giving out of a transformed heart. How can a believer honestly examine their own motivations for generosity and move toward giving that flows from genuine worship?
4. Jesus commended the widow who gave two small coins above all others because she gave out of her poverty rather than her abundance. How does this challenge the way you think about what it means to give sacrificially in your own circumstances?
5. In Matthew 23, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for tithing meticulously while neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness. How do you guard against the tendency to fulfill outward religious obligations while allowing your heart to grow cold toward people in need?
6. Generosity is described as a visible, tangible expression of a transformed heart, referencing Romans 5:8 and the example of Christ going to the cross while we were still sinners. In what practical ways can your daily life serve as a visible demonstration of that same kind of love?
7. We are warned that the world will compete for the worship that belongs to God, often successfully. What habits, attitudes, or attachments in your life might be quietly redirecting your devotion away from God, and how can you reclaim that ground?
8. Paul grounds his entire appeal for generosity in 2 Corinthians 8:9 on the example of Christ, who became poor so that we might become rich. How does meditating on what Christ gave up for you personally shape the way you approach giving your time, resources, and energy?
9. We are called as believers to consider what legacy of faith, generosity, and trust in God's Word we are leaving for the next generation. What specific, concrete steps could you take this week to begin building or strengthening that legacy in the lives of those around you?

Practical Challenge:

Here are a few ways to help activate key next steps this week:

- ***Identify one area*** beyond finances where you can practice generosity this week -- your time, patience, forgiveness, or encouragement -- and intentionally act on it.
- **Set aside time to pray** and ask the Holy Spirit what He is prompting you to give toward the legacy offering. Write down what you sense and bring it back to the group next week.
- **Have a conversation** with your family about generosity. Share one story of how God has been generous to you, and talk together about what it looks like for your household to let that generosity pass through you to others.
- **Reflect** on whether there is someone in your life you have withheld forgiveness or grace from. Ask God to help you yield to His way, even if the emotions are not there yet.