

#### Part 1: Generosity March 2 & 3, 2019 Brian Behrends, Creative Pastor

# Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

It's not a <u>money</u> issue, it's a <u>heart</u> issue.

#### Luke 18:1-27

<sup>18</sup> A certain ruler asked him [Jesus], "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

answered. "No one is good—except God alone. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother."

 $^{\rm 21}$  "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

<sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

<sup>23</sup> When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

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<sup>24</sup> Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup> Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

It's not about being rich, it's about how you hold your riches.

## Luke 21:1-4

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

## James 1:27

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.

- Amy Carmichael

# Small Group Questions

- Who's the most generous person you've ever met?
- 2) Are you naturally a cheerful giver or a grumpy giver?
- 3) What are some of the things you've been entrusted with?

4) What's something God might be

calling you to invest in?5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?