WAVERLY COMMUNITY CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Week 8: Generosity — Loosening Your Grip

📖 INTRODUCTION

Generosity is a spiritual discipline because it rewires our hearts. When we hold money, time, and possessions loosely, we're making a statement: I trust God. I'm not trying to secure my future through accumulation. I'm invested in his kingdom, not my comfort. This goes against every message our culture sends, which is why generosity is so countercultural and so transformative.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Luke 12:33-34 | Proverbs 11:24-25 | 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 | Malachi 3:10

SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN

Jesus tells his disciples to sell possessions and give to the poor. "Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This isn't about poverty for its own sake. It's about where your treasure and heart actually are.

Proverbs says there's a paradox in generosity: "One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty." This seems backwards. You'd think holding tight would secure wealth. But the generous person prospers because their heart is right. The stingy person becomes poor because they're trapped in fear.

Paul writes about sowing and reaping in generosity. "Whoever sows generously will reap generously." Then he connects it to God's character: "God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Malachi speaks about tithing, giving to God and God "opening the floodgates of heaven and pouring out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Generosity isn't just commanded; it's rewarded. Not necessarily with money, but with the kind of abundance that matters: peace, purpose, provision.

💭 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where does your fear around money come from? What's at the root of it?

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2. Jesus says where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. What does your spending reveal about your heart?

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3. Proverbs promises that generosity leads to increase and stinginess to decrease. Have you seen this in your life?

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4. What makes giving feel hard? Is it trusting God, or something else?

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5. Who's an example of generosity you've witnessed? What did their generosity teach you?

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💡 APPLICATION

Generosity is rooted in trust. If you believe God will provide, you can give. If you're afraid, you hold tight. This is why generosity is a spiritual discipline, it forces you to confront what you actually believe about God. Do you believe he'll take care of you? Or do you need to take care of yourself?

Generosity also builds community. When you give to friends, to neighbors, to strangers, to the church, you create interdependence. You're saying, "We need each other. What I have is meant to be shared." This breaks down walls. It builds the kingdom.

One of the best-kept secrets is this: generous people are happier. Not because they're rich, they're not necessarily. But because they're free. Money isn't running their life. Fear isn't controlling them. They can enjoy what they have without being enslaved to it.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What does generosity look like in your current season of life? What can you give?

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2. If you gave away 10% of your income, how would that change your life and your heart?

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3. Where do you naturally hold tight with your money, time, or possessions? What's beneath that resistance?

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4.What specific fear comes up when you think about giving more? Where does that fear come from?

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5. What's one generous act you could do this month that stretches you?

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🎯 WEEKLY CHALLENGE

This week, practice generosity. Give more than you normally would, to your church, to a person in need, to a friend. Give in a way that feels slightly uncomfortable (that's where growth is). Then, pay attention to what you feel. Is there freedom? Relief? Anxiety? What did that generosity reveal about your beliefs regarding God, money, and trust?