

Series: A Season to Remember

Title: Living Open-Handed in a Closed-Fist World

Text: Matthew 6:24–33

Date: December 7, 2025

Opening Reflection

Christmas in North America has slowly shifted from a season of worship to a season of worry, excess, and pressure. The quote from 1904 reminds us how quickly “more and better” become the expectations we carry into December. Jesus invites us into a different way of living—a way shaped not by consumption but by contentment and generosity. This study explores the heart of generosity through Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6:24–34.

Scripture Passages for This Study

Primary Text – Matthew 6:24–34

- “*No one can serve two masters...*” (v. 24)
- “*Do not worry about your life...*” (v. 25)
- “*Look at the birds...*” (v. 26)
- “*Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour...*” (v. 27)
- “*Seek first the kingdom of God...*” (v. 33)

Supporting Scripture

- **Proverbs 3:9** – “*Honor the Lord with your wealth...*”
- **Psalms 37:25–26** – God’s provision for the righteous
- **Philippians 4:19** – God supplies all our needs
- **Matthew 6:21** – Where your treasure is, your heart is
- **Colossians 3:2** – Set your mind on things above
- **Proverbs 19:17 (NLT)** – Giving to the poor is lending to God

Bible Study Discussion Questions

1. Generosity Begins With a Single Allegiance

Matthew 6:24; Proverbs 3:9

Jesus makes it clear that we cannot serve both God and mammon. Generosity begins with surrendering our allegiance—placing God, not wealth, on the throne of our hearts.

Question 1:

What are some practical signs that a person may be “serving” money more than God? How does Proverbs 3:9 challenge us to place God first in our financial decisions?

2. Generosity Grows Out of Confidence in the Father’s Care

Matthew 6:25–27; Psalm 37:25–26; Philippians 4:19

Jesus reminds us that worry cannot add anything to our lives. Fear—not greed—is the greatest barrier to generosity.

Question 2:

How does remembering God’s care (as Jesus highlights with the birds) confront the fears many people have around giving? Which Scripture in this section reassures you most, and why?

3. Generosity Flows From a Life Oriented Toward God’s Kingdom

Matthew 6:33; Matthew 6:21; Colossians 3:2; Proverbs 19:17

Jesus invites us to seek the kingdom first, shifting our priorities, enlarging our perspective, and transforming our generosity into mission.

Question 3:

What does seeking God’s kingdom “first” look like in everyday life, especially during the Christmas season? In what ways does generosity become missional rather than simply financial?

4. Contentment vs. Consumption

Drawing from the sermon’s introduction, our culture disciples us toward consumption while Advent calls us back to contentment and generosity.

Question 4:

In what ways have cultural expectations around Christmas shaped your sense of “enough”? How could adopting a posture of contentment change the way you approach this season?

5. Living Open-Handed

The candy jar illustration reminds us that closed hands protect what we have—but open hands position us to both give and receive.

Question 5:

Where might God be asking you to “open your hand” in this season—whether in finances, compassion, hospitality, time, or reconciliation? How could this open-handed posture shape your witness to others?

Three Suggested Responses to the Message

1. A Response of Surrender - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where money, security, or control has taken a place of allegiance in your heart. Surrender that throne to God again this week.

2. A Response of Trust - Name one financial worry or fear you are carrying into this Christmas season. Commit it to prayer each morning, declaring Philippians 4:19 over your life: *“My God will supply all my needs.”*

3. A Response of Generosity – Prayerfully consider financially supporting the COG Churches in Jamaica. Let it be inspired by kingdom purpose, not seasonal pressure.