

**THE BLESSED LIFE part 2**  
**“A Willing heart”**

**“Being Blessed means having supernatural power working for you”**

I OFTEN APOLOGIZE WHEN I TALK ABOUT MONEY!

MY HEART: “It’s not what I want FROM you.....It’s what I want FOR you!”

FREEDOM! TRUE FREEDOM!

SO HERE IS OUR ROAD MAP!

**Last week: AN OPEN HEART! Inviting God into the conversation!**

TODAY: A WILLING HEART: GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

AN UNDERSTANDING HEART: THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST FRUITS

A CONTENT HEART: FIGHTING GREED AND WANTING MORE

A CURIOUS HEART: UNDERSTANDING THE TEST! TITHING

A TRUSTING HEART: MIRACLE HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE IT AWAY

THIS WEEKEND IS MOTHER’S DAY!!!!

Who got something special from your kids?

-Not about the cost of the gift.....it is about the heart behind it!

One gift and 2 Hearts revealed in one story!

**John 12:1-6** “Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. 4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, 5 “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”

Judas was the treasurer.

He had control of the finances! TAKING FOR HIMSELF!

-First question: Did Jesus know? YES

-Every test is an opportunity to pass

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

His true colors came out in this story!

-HE WAS UPSET BECAUSE HE WANTED THE MONEY!

Now let’s look at Mary!

**John 12:3** Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

Judas complained because this oil was worth 300 Denarii.

-A Denarii was a days wage. 300 days wages!

THIS WAS 50 WEEKS.....BASICALLY A YEAR'S SALARY!

This was an EXTRAVAGANT gift!

Extravagant: Exceeding what is reasonable or appropriate, absurd

**John 12:7 Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. <sup>8</sup>You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."**

THE GIFT EXPOSED THE HEART!

Judas did not even make the sacrifice.....he was concerned only for himself.

Mary gave an extravagant gift out of a grateful heart! WHY??

**John 11:1-3 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. <sup>2</sup>This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. <sup>3</sup>So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."**

Lazarus died THEN JESUS RAISED HIM BACK TO LIFE!

HER EXTRAVAGANT GIFT CAME FROM A HEART OF GRATITUDE FOR AN EXTRAVAGANT MIRACLE!

This represented a year of her wages.....and she gave it freely!

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> 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.**

**GOD REWARDS A HEART OF GENEROSITY!**

**Hebrews 11:6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.**

Greek word reward: to give back extravagantly

Example that you return a wallet with \$50 in it, and the owner is so thankful that they give you \$5000. It was not about the amount in the wallet, it was about their appreciation of your honesty.

**Mark 14:9 Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”**

**-HER LEGACY!**

**2 Corinthians 8:1-5 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.**

**GOD USES US TO BE A PART OF THE MIRACLE!**

Last week: God doesn't need our gifts.....God wants our heart!

-Giving crushes selfishness! OWNER or STEWARD!

What in reality can we give God? He paves his streets with GOLD!

Let's go back to what can your kids give you for mother's day?

-most elementary kids don't have full time jobs!

VALUE COMES FROM THE HEART.....

.....NOT THE COST OR EVEN QUALITY!

GOD REJOICES OVER THE HEART.....NOT THE AMOUNT!

BACK TO THE FIRST BUILDING PROJECT IN HISTORY!!!!!!

**-3500 years ago.....Moses built the first Tabernacle!**

-They had specific detailed plans!

-They had specific materials needed!

-They had specific work that needed to be done!

### **Offerings for the Tabernacle**

**Exodus 35:4-5** Then Moses said to the whole community of Israel, "This is what the Lord has commanded: **<sup>5</sup> Take a sacred offering for the Lord. Let those with generous hearts present the following gifts to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze;**

-Verses 6-9 list all the materials needed

**Exodus 35:10** “Come, all of you who are gifted craftsmen. Construct everything that the Lord has commanded:

-Verses 11-19 list every that needed to be built

**Exodus 35:20** So the whole community of Israel left Moses and returned to their tents. <sup>21</sup> All whose hearts were stirred and whose spirits were moved came and brought their sacred offerings to the Lord. They brought all the materials needed for the Tabernacle, for the performance of its rituals, and for the sacred garments. <sup>22</sup> Both men and women came, all whose hearts were willing. They brought to the Lord their offerings of gold—

-Verse 23-28 lists everything they brought

**Exodus 35:29** So the people of Israel—every man and woman who was eager to help in the work the Lord had given them through Moses—brought their gifts and gave them freely to the Lord.

-Then the Lord brought the workers

**Exodus 35:35** The Lord has given them special skills as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple, and scarlet thread on fine linen cloth, and weavers. They excel as craftsmen and as designers.

**Exodus 36:1** “The Lord has gifted Bezalel, Oholiab, and the other skilled craftsmen with wisdom and ability to perform any task involved in building the sanctuary. Let them construct and furnish the Tabernacle, just as the Lord has commanded.”

-They started the project

**Exodus 36:2** <sup>2</sup> So Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and all the others who were specialy gifted by the Lord and were eager to get to work.<sup>3</sup> Moses gave them the materials donated by the people of Israel as sacred offerings for the completion of the sanctuary.

-There was enough!!!

**Exodus 36:3-4** But the people continued to bring additional gifts each morning.<sup>4</sup> Finally the craftsmen who were working on the sanctuary left their work.<sup>5</sup> They went to Moses and reported, “The people have given more than enough materials to complete the job the Lord has commanded us to do!”

-There was MORE THAN ENOUGH!

**Exodus 36:6-7** So Moses gave the command, and this message was sent throughout the camp: “Men and women, don’t prepare any more gifts for the sanctuary. We have enough!” So the people stopped bringing their sacred offerings.<sup>7</sup> Their contributions were more than enough to complete the whole project.

NOT A BAD FIRST PROJECT!!!!

Some key takeaways:

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE!

NEEDED: WORKERS, MONEY & MATERIALS

PEOPLE WANTED TO BE INVOLVED!!!!

MY WORD “ENOUGH”

God’s got this and will MOVE on people’s hearts!

SO HERE IS THE PLAN!

MAY-JUNE: 6 week “Generosity Journey”

-The BLESSED LIFE! Robert Morris

EVERYONE MOVE FORWARD IN FAITH! WITH A WILLING HEART!!

