



Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

Feel free to customize this to use in your small group, family or for you personally

From Message on: 9/27/20

Optional Opener Question

You have \$1,000. What person, charity or charities would you give it to? Why those charities?

Introductory Thought

Paradoxes are seemingly self-contradictory statements that might seem to go against the grain of our culture. Last week we looked at the paradox of wealth. This week we look at the Paradox of Giving, which is “The more you give away, the more you receive.”

Discussion Questions

- How did you react to Brent’s statement: “Giving brings wealth?” What do you think he meant by that? It seems counter-intuitive; is it? Have you seen it demonstrated in your own life or the lives of others?
- Let’s define GIVING. Do I give only to get? If I expect something in return, is it really giving? If I give grudgingly, is it really giving? If I give to be noticed or praised, is it really giving? If I only give out of my excess, is it really giving? If I give you all the red jelly beans because I dislike them, is it really giving? How might giving be tied to my motives?
- 2 Cor 1:3-5 talks about giving the comfort that we have received. How could you apply that same instruction to:
 - Financial resources Words of encouragement
 - Help in time of need Prayers
 - Time A listening, non-judgmental ear
- Proverbs is a book written by King Solomon and contains his observations of life and relationships. Brent quoted Prov 11:24-25, using the words “freely” and “stingy.” How would you define those terms? Are they behaviors or heart-values? How does a pattern of being stingy reflect being self-centered, focusing only on my own needs? How could a person pivot from stingy to generous?
- How does Luke 6:38 speak to my attitudes toward either generosity or stinginess. What about my reputation? Now include 2 Cor 9:6-7 in the discussion. In what ways is a reputation a pattern not perfection?
- God’s greatest gift to us cost Him something valuable. Read John 3:16. In what ways do you think His giving is a pattern for us? Romans 8:31-32. Did His giving culminate at the Cross or does it continue into today? In what ways? Check out Romans 8:37-39.
- Look at Ecclesiastes 5:10-11. What is a possible motive for stinginess and how might this be a warning to us?
- Mark 12:41-44 talks about giving out of limited resources. Also read Deuteronomy 16:17. Expand the discussion from money to time, abilities, encouragement, etc. What can we learn from the widow’s example?
- Read Acts 3:1-8. What did Peter & John generously give to a man’s need? **In whose name do we be generous** and what insights can you get from that?
- **Final thoughts:** now that you’ve done a bunch of thinking on the subject, what are some ways that giving increases not decreases your life? Use the list above (financial resources, etc) to help you explain.

Practical Application & Next Steps

- Is God calling you to change your attitude towards giving of your time, money or resources? Ask God to show you places where your fist is tightly closed: you didn’t intend to be stingy, but that’s the net result. In the next seven days, ask God to give you an opportunity to give without thought of getting something in return, to give without measuring, to give without getting appreciation. When you have done it, write a thank-you note to God for the opportunity to serve Him in this way!!
- Give some thought to ways that others have invested (aka given) into your life. How will you express your gratitude?