

Enough

Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity



Week #4- “The U-Haul & the Hearse”

Devotions & Notes- October 21-26

Monday, September 21 Read Proverbs 11:24-25 & 22:9

The Ebenezer Scrooges of the world are universally despised. Something in our very nature objects to mean, self-centered stinginess yet many of us struggle with giving much more than the bare minimum, giving only “water (11:25).” Why is that? _____

In your own experience, why is generosity such a blessed thing? _____

Tuesday September 22 Read Matthew 16:25; Acts 20:35; Psalm 24:1; Leviticus 25:23

All of these verses represent a radical reevaluation of the ways in which we look at the world: our primary goal is to give away, not gain; nothing ultimately belongs to us and our purpose is to lift up and care for others rather than ourselves. In what ways does our struggle with generosity reflect our need to maintain control and a lack of faith and trust in God? _____

What are some ways we can rise above this? _____

Wednesday, September 23 Read Luke 12:48

If we are indeed stewards of God’s possessions, then it is reasonable that God has certain expectations for how they will be used. What does God expect from us in terms of generosity and service? _____

What do you think God expects from you personally and how are you responding to that expectation? _____

Week #4 “The U-Haul & The Hearse”



Thursday, September 24 Read Mark 12:41-44

The key to understanding this passage comes in v. 44. What does it mean to give out of ones abundance and how is that different from what the widow did (and what God expects!)? _____

How do these actions illustrate the true nature of our faith and discipleship? _____

Note that this story follows Jesus’ condemnation of the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees.

Friday, September 25 Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

How we give is at least as important as what we give. Why is that? _____

What does our attitude reveal about our faith and our worship? _____

In what ways do we also reap the attitude we sow? _____

Do you tithe? Why or why not? _____

Saturday, September 26 Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Notice that here being rich is not a sin but being arrogant, ungrateful and stingy is! What are the rich to be doing with their abundance? _____

Compared to the vast majority of people in the world we are extremely wealthy (even if we don’t think we are!) so in what ways is this directed to us? _____

How will you respond to the scripture’s words to you? _____

Sermon Notes for October 20, 2019 “The U-Haul & The Hearse”

- 1. We are created to be generous though fear and self-gratification often limit our commitment to that call.**
- 2. We can be generous when we remember that:**
 - A. Joy is found in doing things for others.**
“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over”- Luke 6:38
 - B. We can only truly find life when we’re willing to lose it.**
“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” –Matthew 16:25
 - C. Life is a gift since everything belongs to God.**
“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. “– Psalm 24:1
- 3. The Biblical tithe offers us a guideline for living generous lives.**

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Small Group Discussion Guide



Part 1: BEING Enough

1. Review the readings for Monday and Tuesday of this week, then read this statement from Sunday's sermon:
"We are created to be generous though fear and self-gratification often limit our commitment to that call."
 - Do you agree with that statement? What's the difference between being "created" for generosity and trying to be generous?
 - Share some of the fears and aspects of self-gratification that hinder our generosity. What are some concrete ways to overcome these fears and reign in our desire for self-gratification?

Part 2: What is Enough?

1. Look at these notes on how to keep focused on generosity and read the accompanying scriptures. Then discuss the following questions.
We can be generous when we remember that:
 - A. Joy is found in doing things for others.
"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over" - Luke 6:38
 - Is there a difference between occasionally doing things for other and living a life of generosity? If so, what is it and how do we cultivate it? How are we emulating God and participating with God when we live this way?
 - B. We can only truly find life when we're willing to lose it.
"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." – Matthew 16:25
 - How is letting go of our lives similar to taking up our cross? On Sunday, Larry suggested we are often "spiritually constipated," holding in our gifts and being miserly with our participation. Why do we do that? How can we encourage one another to live a more risky faith and what might that look like in real, concrete examples?
 - C. Life is a gift since everything belongs to God.
"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. "–Psalm 24:1
 - If we believe this statement, how would that affect what we do with our money? Our relationships? Our time? While most Christians believe this statement, why do so few live lives that reflect it?
3. On Sunday several points were made about the Biblical tithe: 1.) the tithe is for US, to help us better prioritize our lives. 2.) The tithe is not so much a commandment or calculated amount as much as it is a proper orientation toward use of our resources and setting the limits of "enough." 3.) The tithe is a starting point not an end goal. Discuss these points and the questions that follow with your group.
 - According to 2018 statistics (<https://nonprofitsource.com/online-giving-statistics/>) only 10-25% of most church congregations tithe and The average giving by adults who attend US Protestant churches is about \$17 a week. What does this say about our commitment to the ministry of the church? Our sacrificial understanding of discipleship? Our REAL priorities?
 - What can we, as individual church members, do to address this...or does it matter?
 - Do you tithe? If so, why? If not, why not?

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Did the members of your group make a pledge for the coming year?

My Pledge for 2020

We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship of your church and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in our church, our community, and our world and they offer an opportunity to step out in trust and personal ministry.

Please complete this estimate of giving, fold and return it in the offering plate or to the church office. You may change your commitment at any time by notifying the church office.

If you have questions regarding this card, call 229-273-4586.

Yes! I/We will support the ministries of Cordele First UMC in 2020, financially as listed below as well as in our prayers, presence, service and witness.

Choose One:

\$_____ weekly for 52 weeks

\$_____ semi-monthly for 24 periods

\$_____ monthly for 12 months

\$_____ as follows _____

Name (please print): _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

____ I/We would like information on setting up electronic giving

____ I/We would like information on how to provide for Cordele First UMC in my/our will.

____ I/We would like to meet with the pastor to discuss our stewardship.