

A Heart Of Generosity
The New Normal – Part 3
August 15-16, 2020
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love, Pastor Steve Tanner
Luke 12:13-21

"...It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 (p.849)

"Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

Proverbs 11:24-25 (p.488)

- **I Will Follow Jesus' Example Of Generosity.**

(Not generous at all) 0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 (Generous like Jesus.)

"(Jesus)...Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own...Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

Luke 12:15, 21 (p.795)

1. Ask: Where am I regarding generosity? (Rich Fool Luke 12:16-20) My Rating _____

"But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'"

Luke 12:20 (p.795)

2. Ask: How can I shift my mindset to be more Jesus? My Rating _____

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need."

Luke 12:31 (p.795)

"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

Luke 12:34 (p.795)

3. Ask: How much can God bless me? My Rating _____

"If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?... You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

Luke 16:11-13 (p.798)

"Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine."

Proverbs 3:9-10 (p.482)

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."

Isaiah 43:19 (p.550)

Next Step: _____ I will take one action this week to move my rating to the right one point closer to being like Jesus.



ONE VOICE

Discussion Guide from the Weekend Talk

From the Weekend Talk of August 15-16, 2020
The New Normal – Part 3: A Heart of Generosity

Use this Discussion Guide to dig deeper into the principles from the weekend talk. Our Life Groups use them, but we encourage you to discuss them with your family, or over the phone or online with friends.

Life Groups use these questions to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. **Our Fall Life Groups Semester begins the week of August 22-23. Find out more at alivechurch.com/groups.**

Conversation Starters

- Share some of the blessings in your life. How aware of God's blessings are you on a day-to-day basis?
- If you looked at your bank or credit card statement, what would you learn about your priorities?
- What does generosity look like? Who have you known who was generous?

Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend's Talk Notes.

- This week Pastors Jeff Love and Steve Tanner highlighted One Thing to remember from this Talk: "I Will Follow Jesus' Example Of Generosity."
 - Read LUKE 12:13-21 (p.794*); Acts 20:35 (p.849*); Proverbs 11:24-25 (p.488*)
 - Note: you will deal more with the Luke passage in the rest of the discussion.
 - Why is it more blessed to give than to receive?
 - How is generosity rewarded? Is this reward necessarily monetary or material?
 - Describe the different ways you feel when you are generous versus when you are stingy.
- Jeff and Steve focused on **three key questions** to ask ourselves in order to honestly rate our generosity based on a *Generosity Scale*:

(Not generous at all) **0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10** (Generous like Jesus.)

1. Ask: Where am I regarding generosity? (Rich Fool Luke 12:16-20)

My Rating _____. (Luke 12:16-20 (p.795*))

- Wise financial planning is a good thing, right? What makes this guy's story different?
- How would you help a child learn generosity? How can a parent (or grandparent) set them up for success in this?
- How do you know when you are generous?

2. Ask: How can I shift my mindset to be more like Jesus?

My Rating _____. (Luke 12:31, 34 (p.795*))

- Describe your generosity mindset. How is this the key to how blessed your life feels?
- How do you "set" your mind on anything? How do you change your mind about anything?
- How was Jesus generous?

3. Ask: How much can God bless me?

My Rating _____.

(Luke 16:11-13 (p.798*); Proverbs 3:9-10 (p.482*); Isaiah 43:19 (p.550*))

- How do you feel about this question? Have you ever thought about it before?
- Have you ever felt like you were "enslaved to money"? (Luke 16:13)
- What are some ways we can become a slave to money?
- Is the Proverbs passage a guarantee of great wealth? Is this a principle to live by no matter the impact on your bank balance?

Digging Deeper

Here are a couple of quotes that relate to our discussion of generosity.

- A famous quote from martyred missionary Jim Elliot says, "*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*" Mr. Elliott is talking about giving up one's life and way for the eternal Way of Jesus.
- With regards to sin and our ability to have a relationship with God, "*We owed a debt we could not pay while Jesus paid a debt He did not owe.*"
 - Read Romans 3:23 (p.859*), 6:23 (p.861*), and 5:8 (p.860*).
 - How do you see the generosity of Jesus in these passages?
 - Talk about your personal experience with the concept of trusting Jesus to pay YOUR debt.

Next Step

My Next Step: ____ I will take one action this week to move my rating to the right one point closer to being like Jesus.

- What steps will you take this week to move your rating closer to being like Jesus?

Pray

- Pray for one another in how we respond to this Talk. Pray also for those who are taking up the **Three-Month Tithing Challenge**. As Pastor Jeff says in his book, *Lord of the Fries*, "It's not about your money, it's about your heart."

What's Ahead

- Our **Fall Life Groups Semester** kicks off the week of **August 22-23**. If you are already in a Life Group, you won't need to sign up again. If you know people who are not yet in a Group, please encourage them to sign up! alivechurch.com/groups
- This weekend we continue our **Talk Series: *The New Normal***. What if the old normal isn't normal anymore for you and your family? What if God is trying to get our attention for the new normal? We have to figure out what normal is, according to God.
- We continue to be **Alive Church Online** through our various channels and platforms: alivechurch.com; Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Roku, and Apple TV. Invite your friends! Share our posts! Let's get more and more people connected through Alive Church Online!
- To see our **Re-Entry Plan**, go to alivechurch.com and click the link.
- All of these notes are also in **our App**. To get our FREE App just text "ALIVEAZ APP" to this number: 77977 and follow the instructions. If you need help, we'll help you!

* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one.