



The Generous Spirit

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor – May 19, 2013

INTRODUCTION

- **DIVINE COMMAND**
 - Don't judge
 - Don't condemn
 - Forgive
 - Give generously
- **CONDITIONAL PROMISE**
 - You won't be judged
 - You won't be condemned
 - You will be forgiven
 - You will receive generously

PRINCIPLE #1: The way you treat others will determine how God treats you.

DON'T JUDGE / DON'T CONDEMN (Luke 6:37a)

- What this doesn't mean (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:12; Galatians 6:1)
- What this does mean
 - Judge = Set yourself up to critique the moral worth of another person
 - Condemn = Pass pitiless, harsh judgment on another without taking into consideration any reasons for forbearance

PRINCIPLE #2: Agape love does not allow for judging or condemning others... even those who are hostile toward us.

PRINCIPLE #3: To be able to give grace, you must first grasp grace yourself. (Romans 8:1;

FORGIVE / BE GENEROUS (Luke 6:37b-38)

PRINCIPLE #4: The measure with which we measure in our dealings with others will be employed by God in His dealings with us. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Mark 4:24b)

ENEMIES OF A GENEROUS SPIRIT

- ❶ **GREED / IDOLATRY** (Luke 16:13; Colossians 3:5)
- ❷ **FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY** (Luke 12:13-15; Proverbs 11:4)
- ❸ **SELFISHNESS** (Luke 12:16-21 – Rich Fool; 22:1-6 – Judas Iscariot)

DEVELOPING A GENEROUS SPIRIT

- Options regarding our relationship with God
- ❶ God is not a part of your life → You are in control
- ❷ God is a little part of your life → You are still in control
- ❸ God is a growing part of your life → You are wrestling with God for control
- ❹ God is your life → God is in control

WHAT DOES A GENEROUS SPIRIT LOOK LIKE?

PRINCIPLE #5: Biblical Stewardship = Organizing your life in such a way that God can spend it.

- Example of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)



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Lesson Aim: To grow in our understanding of the generous heart of God and how we can treat others as He has treated us.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

Icebreaker: Did you have to share much with brothers and/or sisters growing up?

1. **READ Luke 6:37-38.** What activities does Jesus speak against and speak in favor of?
2. Based on the context, what are some implications of what the Jesus' promise in verse 38 means?
3. Based on the context, the "judging" Jesus refers to here is clearly negative. However, in our Christian relationships, having "accountability" is often seen as positive (done out of love for the other person). Practically speaking, what do you think might be some differences between judgment and accountability?
4. Why does judgmental condemnation fail to actually change people?
5. What observations do you make about loving accountability based on the following verses:

Luke 17:3:

Galatians 6:1-2:

James 5:19-20:

6. One of the principles from Pastor Scott's teaching was "**To be able to give grace, you must first grasp it yourself.**" How has the forgiveness and grace you have received in your life helped you to change?
7. Another major point from Sunday's teaching was that our generous spirit has to go all the way down to the stewardship of our: thoughts/attitudes, words, willingness to forgive, time, abilities, material possessions and money. Which one or two of these areas are the most challenging for you to be generous with and why?
8. Which one or two of these areas are the least challenging for you to be generous with and why?

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.