

# Matters of the Heart

## A Generous Heart

Acts 4:32-36

### THE EARLY CHURCH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY... (Acts 4:32-35)

- \* Unity (v.32a)
- \* Stewardship (v.32b)
- \* Sharing (v.32c)
- \* Assistance (vv.34,35b)
- \* Radical Generosity (vv.34-37)
- \* Power + Grace + Growth (v.33)

PRINCIPLE: One of the keys to unlocking the mysteries of God's power, grace & growth is developing a generous heart.

### OBSERVATIONS

- ① All reality, including generosity, starts with God (John 3:16)
- ② We have an incredibly generous God (Acts 14:17)
- ③ God has built margin into our lives so we can be generous like Him

- ④ Without margin, you cannot be generous
- ⑤ Generosity is actually logical (Proverbs 11:25; Luke 6:38; Galatians 6:7; 2 Corinthians 9:7)
- ⑥ Generosity is contagious (cf. Acts 36-37)
- ⑦ The opposite of generosity is so Self Defeating

### TWO KINDS OF GIVERS

- ① People who give what's leftover
- ② People who give off the top & live on what's leftover

### WHY BE GENEROUS?

- ① To imitate God (Matthew 6:19-21)
- ② To maintain spiritual intensity
- ③ To alleviate pain, suffering & injustice (Micah 6:8)
- ④ To further the kingdom purposes of God (2 Corinthians 8:6-11)

## LifeGroup Questions - Doing Life Together

Week of June 4-10, 2017

### *Matters of the Heart*

#### A Generous Heart

Sermons can be viewed online at [creeksideeg.com/sermon](http://creeksideeg.com/sermon)

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

#### PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God for being an outrageously generous God. Spend a little time praying as a group, thanking Him for His many blessings in your lives.

#### MY STORY

Describe a time when you were the recipient of another person's generosity. What happened, and how did it make you feel?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

1. What from the message gave you new insight into a "generous heart"?
2. Read **Acts 4:32-36**. What do you think it would have been like to live in that experience?
3. In your own words define generosity. In your opinion, is generosity alive in the greater Christian church today? Explain.
4. Why are people by nature not normally generous, and how can knowing God change that?
5. How do the following passages illustrate God's great generosity to us?
  - **1 John 3:1**
  - **Acts 14:17**
  - **John 3:16**
  - **1 Timothy 6:17**

6. Based on Sunday's message, what is **margin**? Why is **margin** a critical element if a person hopes to be generous? How do people learn to live with **margin**?

7. How do the following verses illustrate the logical nature of generosity?

- **Proverbs 11:25**

- **Luke 6:38**

- **Galatians 6:7**

- **2 Corinthians 9:7**

#### DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

8. Read **1 Timothy 6:17-19** and answer the following questions.

- Why would the phrase "*Command those who are rich in this present world*" apply to essentially all people in the United States?
- How does generosity show that a person has put his trust in God rather than in wealth?
- How does generosity help a person "*take hold of life which is life indeed*"?

#### TAKING IT HOME

9. How has being a Christian affected your generosity factor?
10. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = no generosity, and 10 = very generous) how would you rate your generosity factor? What would you like your generosity factor to be? What steps can you take to get it there?
11. Memorize **1 Timothy 6:18** then write it out in the space below.

#### PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group and ask God to give you a generous heart. Make plans to exercise generosity this week.