



**Radical Generosity**  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
March 4, 2018

Open in prayer

**Ice Breaker:** Who in your life is someone that you would consider a generous person? What traits or values do you notice as they serve others?

- What would it look like if we, as followers of Jesus, lived with radical generosity?
- Read and discuss Acts 4:32-35. What comes to mind when you read this passage? Do you think this was a new system for the early church? What do you think motivated people to give and share?
- How would you define radical generosity? Are there any examples in our present day?
- What would be the effect of this kind of generosity today in Los Angeles?

Pastor Loren said in giving, "There is a faith component. We will never live with radical generosity without faith."

- How does faith relate to generosity?
- How does fear keep us from tithing?

Hebrews 11:6 - "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

**The Big Idea** – God is the source of every blessing in your life. God designed you to be a channel of his blessings, not a container. The more you give, the more there is to give away. **Our Conviction: The blessed life is a generous life. We are blessed to be a blessing.**

**Read** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

**Context:** The believers in and around Jerusalem were in a desperate situation. They had very little money, very little food, and a great deal of fear. Paul took up their case as his own and traveled among the churches of Turkey and Greece raising money for the poor saints in Jerusalem. The church at Corinth, in a burst of zeal, made a large and generous pledge. For some reason or other, they had never made good on their promise.

**Paul then makes his appeal for their generosity and gives them three important principles:**



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**1. The Sowing and Reaping Principle – “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” Verse 6**

Paul talked about this in Galatians 6:7-9. Read and discuss the passage.

- Read Galatians 6:7-10. Reflecting on verse 7 of this passage, what is the simple meaning of the statement, “a man reaps what he sows”? Give several examples.
- Paul says “God cannot be mocked” when it comes to this principle. He is pointing out that even though we may not notice it, our thoughts, attitudes and actions produce fruit. What are some ways that people tend to be in denial about this reality? What does God see that we don’t see?
- What attitudes, when habitually practiced, do you think are most harmful in terms of affecting our character? Which have you found to be the most beneficial?
- How can we become more aware of how we affect others in these areas? B: All of us will reap what we have sown.
- Read again Galatians 6:8. What are some specific ways we sow to please our sinful nature? Likewise, how do we sow to please the Spirit? Give several examples of each.
- Think back to 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. What additional instruction do we find in this passage that help us better understand the principles of sowing and reaping?

Many people want to be used by God. But the question for all of us is.....**Are you being a blessing with what God has given you now?** If God can’t trust us with what he has given us, it’s unlikely he will trust us with more.

Read Luke 6:38. What principles does Jesus give us in this passage?

**You might be thinking.....Pastor Loren, how does this work? Well, Paul gives us an explanation.**

**The Giving Explanation** – “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” Verses 7-8

- What are some characteristics of generous Christian giving that Paul notes in this passage?



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**God's Promise** - "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."  
Verses 10-11

- In this passage, what does the 'seed' and 'harvest' refer to?
- What is the difference between giving to get and getting to give?

**Where do we start?**

**1. Give until it requires faith.**

Here is a question we can ask ourselves: "Am I more generous now than I was a year ago? Does my giving require more faith?"

**2. Celebrate your worth**

Do you know how much you're worth? Not financially. Do you know how much your life is worth?

**Your worth is exactly what somebody's willing to pay for your life.** The Bible says that you and I were purchased with tremendous price. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed...but with the precious blood of Christ..." (1 Peter 1:18-19)

**Reflection**

- Where do I need more faith in my giving?
- Where and what can I sow generously?
- What will be my plan to be generous?