

Joyful Generosity

I. Introduction

- A. **Story:** Learning to share growing up.
- B. We don't talk about generosity for generosity's sake. We don't talk about generosity so that the church has enough money to function. We don't talk about generosity because it is the "good Christian" thing to do. We talk about generosity because our God is generous.
- C. Our job as followers of Christ is to reflect our Creator God - our good, beautiful, and generous God.

II. God Is Generous

- A. **Story:** Young adult women small group, Maggie's anger against God.
- B. The world's economics vs. kingdom economics...we don't get what we deserve!
- C. **James 1:17**
- D. The whole story of the Bible is the story of God's steadfast love that culminates in the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ on behalf of a wayward world. God delights in giving good gifts to His children - especially when we do not deserve it (which is all the time). God is generous. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We did not earn that
- E. **Philippians 2:5-8**

III. God's People are Generous

- A. The three narratives that prevent generosity.
 - 1. God helps those who help themselves.
 - 2. If I give away, I will have less.
 - 3. What I have is mine to use for my own pleasure.

- B. The truth of the Bible and the person of Jesus Christ teaches us a different way.
 - 1. God uses His people to help those who cannot help themselves.
 - 2. If we all share, we will all have enough.
 - 3. What I have is God's to use for His glory. I am just a steward of God's good gifts.
- C. What resources do we have available to us to share with others?
 - 1. Hearts and minds
 - 2. Bodies
 - 3. Time
 - 4. Talents
 - 5. Physical resources
 - a) What is a tithe?
 - b) The starting place for us as Christians.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Malachi 3:10...we aren't promised that we will get the blessings that we want! Often times they look different than we hope/expect they would.
- B. The blessings that are poured out might be a strengthened relationship with a friend, an inexplicable peace from the Holy Spirit, or an encouraging word from a stranger. This is the life we are invited into. Will you join me in testing God in the area of joyful generosity?
- C. Prayer