

The Message Notes

Message: *Lifestyle of Generosity*

Text: Acts 4:32 (NLT)

Pastor Keith (January 6, 2022)



Talk:

Context: Background to our text:

Acts 4:32. All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

- United in heart and mind (unity)
- What they owned was not their own (**community**)
- They shared everything (mutually benefits)

Lifestyle of Generosity:

“The **first practice** of giving in the church was **generosity.**”

Generosity is **openhanded** giving that is **unlimited**. You give freely, benevolently, and cheerfully to **meet needs** and to be a **blessing** to others.

1. History of Generosity

a) God is a _____. Genesis 1:29

Genesis 1:29. And God said, “Behold **I have given you** every plant **yielding seed** that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with **seed** in its fruit. You shall have them **for food.** (ESV)

“Seed produces the food.”

b) God looks for a _____. Genesis 2:5

“**Manager** is a person who is responsible for the processes of getting work completed **efficiently** to achieve the desired output through the execution of planning, organizing, and controlling.”

c) God wants the first _____. Genesis 2:16-17

Application: God is a **giver**. God looks for someone to **manage** the works of His hands. God expects the **first portion** of the increase from your works to be returned to Him.

2. Doctrinal Debate: Tithes versus Freewill

- a) Giving is _____ - The **doctrinal debate** is not if giving is **mandatory**.

“Giving is **mandatory** because it’s a **characteristic** of God’s **nature** and the **first command** to all Christ followers.” Luke 9:23.

Luke 9:23. Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily and follow me.” (NLT)

- b) Giving _____ – 10% Leviticus 27:30

Leviticus 27:30. “Every **tithe** of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, **belongs** to the Lord and **must** be **set apart** to him as holy.”

“**Tithing** is an expression of your **obedience** to the law.”

- c) Giving _____ – 2 Corinthians 9:7

2 Corinthians 9:7. Each one must give as he had **decided** in his **heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

“**Freewill** giving is an expression of your **heart**.”

“**Generosity** is based on percentages and not amount, **Luke 21:3-4**”

Application: Giving is a mandate to offer your life to follow Christ. Generosity can be expressed through your **tithes** (set amount) or **freewill** (unlimited amount).

Tithing expresses our **obedience to the law** and freewill is an **expression of our heart**.

3. Practicing Generosity:

- a) **Worship** – return to God – Psalms 24:1, Deuteronomy 12:24-25, Proverbs 3:9-10, Luke 16:10-12
- b) **Blessed to be a Blessing** - your vocation – 1 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 4:28, Acts 20:35, Genesis 12:2-3
- c) **Increase** – sowing and reaping - Genesis 1:12, Galatians 6:7, 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, Proverbs 11:25, Mark 10:28-29

Takeaway: Lifestyle of **generosity** is practiced by worshipping God by returning to Him the **first** of your increase. You are **called** to be a **blessing**, so you can continue to be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which produces thanksgiving to God.