



The Principle of Generosity

John 12:3-8

A. The Heart of Generosity

1. Mary’s generosity was extravagantly poured outward.

“Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped His feet with her hair.” John 12:3a (NIV)

2. Judas’ generosity was selfishly poured inward.

“But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected, ‘Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.’

He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.” John 12:4-6 (NIV)

3. Jesus’ generosity purposefully redirected hypocrisy.

“‘Leave her alone,’ Jesus replied. ‘It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of My burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me.’” John 12:7-8 (NIV)

B. The Extravagance of Generosity

1. The perfume was the token that represented the extravagance of Mary’s heart.

“And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” John 12:3b (NIV)

“When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.’” John 11:32 (NIV)

2. The cross was the token that represented the extravagance of God’s heart for His children.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” John 3:16-17 (NIV)

3. The latter of extravagant giving.

- a. Tithes (10%)
b. Offerings (Beyond the 10%)
c. Extravagant Offerings (The Painful Cost)

“Then He said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?’” Luke 9:23-24 (NIV)

C. The Journey of Generosity

1. The seven phases of generosity.

- a. Hearing
b. Excitement
c. Fear
d. Logic
e. Doubt
f. Faith
g. Obedience

2. A reward of generosity: A faithful heart.

“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.” Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

“It takes faith to give generously. It grows faith to give generously. It rewards faith when we give generously.” Pastor Arlie Davis, *You Can Bank On It* (2010)

3. A reward of generosity: A selfless heart.

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35 (NIV)

Ask yourself:

“Am I a Mary giver, or a Judas receiver?”

Bottom Line:

A generous heart is a sign of a disciplined heart.

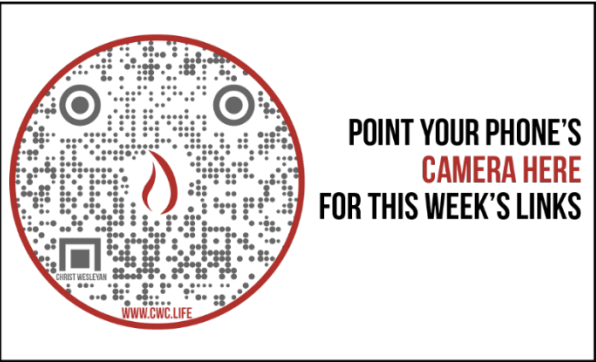
The 90-Day Tithe Challenge

“‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and put Me to the test now in this,’ says the Lord of armies, ‘if I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.’” Malachi 3:10 (NASB)

Your part is to commit to bring back to God your tithe, your first 10% for 90 days. Our commitment to you? At the end of 90 days, if you don’t feel like God is caring for you and nurturing you in your journey of faith, then we commit to giving back every penny you’ve given to CWC during the 90 days, no questions asked.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: “Jesus” to 570-273-0088

Next Sunday:
Milton Campus: Pastor Mike Sweigard
Sunbury Campus: Joining the Milton Campus!



Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 78.5% of goal

Giving year to date: 86.1% of goal

Attendance Last Weekend: 1,765

Salvations to date: 6 | Baptisms to date: 18

Upcoming Happenings:

June 9 – Pastor Mike’s Last Sunday.

June 25-28 – CWC Kidz Camp!

July 7 – Freedom Fest! (Fireworks!)

August 11 – Get-Out Sunday!

Notetakers are History Makers