

**I. ME**

- A. Welcome/Cards/Online
- B. **Part 3**- Yearbook... What a wild crazy ride it's been.
- C. **Review**
  - 1. Money is a tool.
  - 2. It can add purpose to life but it's not the purpose of life
  - 3. Money is a terrible master but an excellent servant.
  - 4. For money to add purpose you have to change your priorities... Give-Save-Live.

**II. WE**

- A. We all agree this stuff is a good idea.
  - 1. We all want to be generous... nobody wants to be **Scrooge**.
- B. Wouldn't it be great to be able to be extravagantly generous?
  - 1. Pay off mortgages / hospital bills / lunch debt / fund cures for diseases / arts / clean water.

**2. Benny**

- 3. And as you grow older you realize the old saying of "it's better to give than receive" is really true. (Jesus said it FYI)
- 4. Fact- **Generous people are happy people.**
- 5. We all know it and want to be it...

C. So why aren't we?

- 1. Let's be real...

**2. First of all, it's not super practical.**

- a. "I barely get by now... how could I afford to be generous?"

**3. It doesn't seem very smart**

- a. "I could give away more money but what if something happens and I need it? Wouldn't it be smarter to keep it just in case?"

**4. And it's not like it would really do much...**

- a. The needs are so big... how could giving from my small salary actually make any difference?
- 5. Sure, if we had a little bit more or were wealthy we'd love to be generous...
- 6. And when we have enough we will be.

D. But **generosity is not determined by the amount given it's determined by the willingness to give.**

- 1. Someone who isn't generous when poor will not be generous if they become rich.
- 2. \$10 dollars given by one person could be far more generous than \$100,000 given by someone else.
- 3. It's not about the amount its about what we do with what we have now.

E. Generosity doesn't come from being lucky enough to have more money than we need

**1. Generosity happens through purposeful management.**

F. Jesus told a parable that I think will help put everything in perspective

### III. GOD (Matthew 25:14-30)

- A. Parables
  - 1. God/Us

#### B. V. 14-15

- 1. IT- Kingdom of heaven
  - 2. Each given a certain amount to manage
  - 3. Bag of Gold- 20 yrs wage.
  - 4. Whose money is it? Just so we're clear.
  - 5. **It's easier to be generous when it's not our money.**
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> servant with 5 immediately goes out and puts the money to work and gets 5 more.
    - 1. Same with the guy with 2

#### D. V. 18

- 1. Easy for the other two.
- 2. You have to have money to make money.
- 3. This isn't very much... can't do much good
- 4. And I don't want to risk it...

#### E. V. 19-21

- 1. Nice work!
  - 2. Since I know I can trust you with this amount here's some greater responsibility and freedom
  - 3. Come on let's go do something great!
- F. Does same with second servant.

#### G. V. 24

- 1. Does that sound like the master who just congratulated the other two?
- 2. Doesn't seem to know or trust his master much

#### H. V. 25

- 1. I was afraid
- 2. Too big of a task for me to handle.
- 3. But here it is... I didn't lose any...

### I. V. 26

- 1. Wicked and Lazy!
  - 2. Well if that's who you think I am why didn't you do anything?
  - 3. You could have done something... anything... but you were too afraid.
- J. Seems harsh right?
    - 1. It's not like he squandered it or embezzled.
    - 2. It's not like he used it on fancy dinners and expensive vacations to Rome and his dream chariot.
- G. But he let his fear keep him from accomplishing the task his master had given him.
    - 1. He let his worry talk him out of his purpose.
    - 2. He let the "What If's" paralyze him.
- #### H. And the same thing happens to us.
- 1. Those excuses earlier...
  - 2. I'd be generous, but I barely have enough to get by...
  - 3. I'd be generous but what if I need it?
  - 4. If I'm generous it won't make much of a difference and I'll just be worse off.
- I. What do these have in common?
    - 1. FEAR...
    - 2. Fear of not having enough
    - 3. Maybe fear of missing out
      - a. Netflix- Stranger Things
    - 4. Fear of not looking like everyone else?
    - 5. We let fear keep us from being who we really want to be...

J. And it's not just fear... it's selfishness...

**1. Fear and selfishness keep us from being generous.**

2. The servant did nothing with the master's money and gave back all that he had been given.
3. If you're a JF... you know everything you have has been given to you by your heavenly Father.
4. Yet we use our money like it's completely ours and we're doing God a favor if we use any of it for someone else.
5. We're worse than the lazy wicked servant.
3. How do you think the master would have responded if the servant, instead of hiding the money and saving it, had gone out and spent it all on himself?
4. But that's exactly what we do...
  - a. "Ah yeah sorry... I needed some new clothes, and coffee.
  - b. My kids have only been to Hawaii twice...
  - c. But they have \_\_\_\_\_!
  - d. You can't expect me not to get the luxury package...
  - e. What do you think I am a servant?"
5. I'm the worst... food, clothes, etc.

K. **We are managers... not owners.**

1. When we act like owners we squander our opportunity to live for a purpose bigger than us...
2. When we act like owners we take on the stress of ownership without any power to do anything about it.
3. Idea of finances bring you peace?
4. Talking about money something you and your spouse love to do?
5. Might be b/c you think you have to have the weight of ownership on your shoulders.

**L. "But we have to live and provide for our families."**

1. Jon, are you saying we should never go on vacation (didn't you just get back from one?)
2. Are you saying we should always wear rags and live in huts and...
3. Of course not! I'm saying... since we are managers we need to take our job seriously.
4. **We need to pay attention to where the money is going.**

**IV. YOU**

- A. How?
- B. Simple, easy, only a little annoying... but incredibly helpful... even if not a JF.
  1. And if you've been arguing with me... "I'm not afraid and I'm not selfish... it's just the reality... I don't have enough to be generous..."

2. You can do this to prove me wrong and make yourself feel better.

C. **For two months...**

1. **Document every purchase you make** (not a budget)
2. **Then sit down and look at it**
3. **Adjust if necessary**

D. Plenty of apps... bank statements... credit card statements

E. What's that going to do?

1. A lot
2. **1<sup>st</sup> ... It'll take the mystery out of your finances.**
  - a. It'll give you a clear picture of your financial reality
  - b. It'll take the guesswork out... less stress.
  - c. "Where'd all of our money go?"
  - d. You can actually have an answer!
  - e. I make \$\_\_\_\_\_ but I spent \$\_\_\_\_\_ on coffee?!

3. **2<sup>nd</sup>... You'll be confronted** (it might feel like a confrontation) **with how much you spend on you**

4. BUT... **it will also show you the reality of how much margin you can actually have to be the generous person you want to be.**

5. It just might take some minor sacrifices and work...

F. For JF's it really all comes down to trust.

1. Often we aren't generous b/c we don't trust that God will take care of us.
2. Mentioned this last week...
3. If you're a JF, you are betting your entire eternity on what Jesus said... **John 14:6.**
4. You base your entire relationship with God on the fact that Jesus told us God is our heavenly Father who loves us and cares for us...

5. Why wouldn't you trust him when he says... **Matthew 6:33?**

6. Probably b/c it's scarier when you can see it and touch it

7. **Money is a tangible test of trust.**

8. Interesting that the story of the **sheep and the goats** is actually in the same breath as this parable... check it out.

9. If you can trust God with the money that you can see you can trust him with what you can't see.

10. So trust him...

11. **Trusting God frees us to be generous.**

V. **WE**

A. You want to be generous.

B. God wants you to be generous

1. Not b/c he needs your money... but b/c it is good for you and it is good for others.

2. He wants you to have a fulfilling, meaningful, purposeful life.

C. Accepting our role as manager and then choosing to manage well can bring peace and happiness.

D. It can make money fun again... **stories or stuff?**

E. God has a reason for making you and giving you what you have... it's all on purpose...

F. It's an investment he's made in order to bring his kingdom to the people he loves

1. **Your life and your possessions are God's investment.**

2. **Manage them well**