

Sunday, February 19, 2017 - "Joyful Generosity" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Luke 19

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- The movement of God always starts with an invitation and the story of Zacchaeus presents an invitation
- Zacchaeus being short in stature
 - Had nothing to do with his height
 - More to do with his social standing (being the chief tax collector he was marginalized)
 - God calls us to pursue the marginalized
- Jesus was looking for Zacchaeus. When we move towards God he moves towards us but he is always the initiator
- Zacchaeus received Jesus JOYFULLY
- He didn't get any directions from Jesus
 - He's talking in the present perfect sense which means it's what he is already doing
 - He may have been baptized by John the Baptist or may have been friends with the disciple Matthew
 - Life change had already happened in Zacchaeus and he was excited to show Jesus how generous he was
 - Zacchaeus was doing everything he knew how to do to be generous
- Would you receive Jesus joyfully if you were called to give account for how you have done with what he has given you
- Parable of the 10 mins (mina = 3 months wages so 10 mins = 2.5 years of wages)
 - Some day we will be called to give account of how we have used what God has given us
 - God has called us to put everything in play for his kingdom
 - This is not only about money but...it is about money
 - We will all have a time when money is an idol
 - The way we manage and use what God has given us unlocks his Grace in our lives
- It's about JOY
 - **How we handle our money is the best indicator of our devotion, our trust, and our commitment to the Lord**
 - The only place in scripture where God calls us to test him is with money
 - It doesn't mean if we give \$10 that God will deposit \$100 in our bank account. When we are faithful he will entrust us with more
- Generosity is about a journey, NOT a rule
 - Rich young ruler: Sell everything
 - Zacchaeus: 50%
 - It's not about a dollar amount or percentage BUT being willing to ask God...to hear and obey
- Examples of generosity
 - Exodus 35
 - Acts 4
- It comes down to asking God if he is pleased with our giving and responding accordingly

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How does your heart react to talking, thinking, praying about money?
2. If you're comfortable, talk about a time when money was or became an idol for you?
3. Would you receive Jesus joyfully if you had to give him an account for the way you have used what he has given you? explain
4. What is God teaching you on the journey of generosity?
5. How are you doing at putting everything into play for the kingdom of God?
6. What is God calling you to or inviting you into as a result of this passage and/or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan - Mon: Mark 10 Tues: Mark 11 Wed: Mark 12 Thurs: Mark 13 Fri: Mark 14**

****5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**