

GRACE OF GIVING

Lottery | Chad Bruegman | 12.02.18

LG Weekly

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why?

SHARE

As we approach the end of the year and anticipate 2019, it is a great time to get back to the basics. Because we have to learn the basics before we can excel! In this short series, we are going to get back to the basic principle of giving. Being generous is one of the greatest things we can do for our spiritual journey! It is close to the heart of Jesus as well as one of our core values here at Red Rocks Church.

How was your week? Take some time to check in with your group.

GROW

Read Luke 12:13-21

What do you think it means to be “rich toward God”?

This week Chad continued our series on giving by talking about how generosity is cultivated by understanding the grace of God! When we start to wrap our minds around everything God has done for us, we stop trying to survive and begin to thrive. We stop expending all of our energy trying to meet the demands of the world and are freed up to give generously from the overflow of a full heart!

In Luke 12, Jesus encounters a man who needs to hear this message. The man has a question for Jesus that is so urgent (in his mind) that he feels the need to interrupt Jesus while he is preaching. The question is about his inheritance. Apparently, his parents have just passed it on to their children, and now he feels entitled to it. He then asks Jesus to step in and tell his brother to give him his portion. In other words, the man is just trying to make a quick buck and is willing to sell out his brother in order to do so.

Jesus sees right through it. He knows that few things are more dangerous to the soul than sacrificing the relationships in your life to hoard more possessions, so He gives this man (and the entire crowd) a warning. “Watch out!” He says, “Be on your guard against all kinds of greed” (Luke 12:15). At the end of our lives, when we look back on everything we have done, we aren’t going to spend much time thinking about all the things we were able to accumulate. Instead, we are going to remember and celebrate all the people we were able to enjoy life with! It’s difficult to remain selfish in community. You don’t have time to be greedy when you are too busy being generous!

Chad read a quote this week that makes this point well. The quote is from his mentor Dick Foth and is worth pausing to think about for a few moments.

“Two things in life make the world go ‘round; money and relationships. Only one of them will make you rich. And it’s not money!”

What does this quote mean to you?

In what ways do you find yourself sacrificing relationships in the pursuit of money?

M O V E

Read Luke 12:22-34

What sort of correlation do you see between worry and money?

What do you think it means to “seek first the kingdom”?

Right after telling the Parable of The Rich Fool, Jesus turns to His disciples and talks to them about worry. At first glance, it may feel like Jesus just completely changed the subject, but nothing could be further from the truth. The reality is, Jesus understood something essential about human nature. That although we try to accumulate wealth to feel secure, our wealth is often the very thing adding more worry to our life.

The month of December is an excellent reminder of this. As we approach the end of the year, it feels like the world speeds up a bit. We all enter the holiday season with great intentions, ready to get some rest and spend time with people we love. But the Christmas season often tends to have the reverse effect. If we aren't careful, our schedules get packed with too many things, and we get to the end of the month feeling exhausted. And yet, all the beautiful moments (that we actually remember) are the simple ones. The moments where we slow down with the people we love and enjoy all of our blessings.

Jesus is keying in on this by coupling a story about money with an invitation not to worry. “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.” God knows what we need. And when our priority is to seek his Kingdom, He promises to take care of us. As we enter this holiday season, it is more important than ever to remember this. If we let it, this month can quickly turn into a time of stress. Or we can choose to slow down, simplify, and focus in on being rich in relationships!

What is one step you can take this week to simplify your life?

This week, Chad gave us the lottery challenge. He asked us to take some time to think about the lottery that we have each hit. Did you hit the parent lottery? The spouse lottery? The kid lottery? The job lottery? The answer will look a little different for all of us, but the response should be the same. An understanding of how blessed we are and a thankful and generous heart!

Take a few minutes to think about the way you've hit the lottery in life. Now make a list of a few of the people who have aided in the process. Take some time this week to thank them for their generosity toward you! This can be through an email, a phone call, a text, coffee, or whatever seems appropriate.

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

T O G O

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."

Proverbs 11:24