



Generosity that leads to Generosity

Luke 18:9-17

[based on the sermon preached on 26.6..22 – available on the [church app](https://churchapp.org.au/sermons) or at <https://lwac.org.au/sermons>]

KEY IDEAS

1. God sees the heart: those who look generous externally, on the outside, can be very self-righteous on the inside.
2. We can be generous financially but not in character (like the Pharisees).
3. In order to be truly generous in character, we must first acknowledge our spiritual poverty before God, our need for God in deep humility (like the tax collector).
4. Jesus was constantly generous with others, giving himself to them because he loved and cared for them, as he did the little children.
5. God was generous towards us as he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to become poor (incarnate, crucified) for our sakes' that we might become rich towards God.

CONNECT

- What are some things in your life which (might) tempt you to feel self-righteous at times? These may be material accumulations, accomplishments, character traits, social standing or connections, talents or abilities. What do you do to remind yourself that though these may be good things, in themselves they do not make you righteous or acceptable to God or loved by God?

STUDY

Read Leviticus 25:35-37, 2 Corinthians 8:7-9, 1 Timothy 6:17, Matthew 6:19-21

- What is a theme common to all these verses?
- How does this theme provide context for our passage in Luke 18:9-17?
- From these verses, what do you conclude is God's attitude toward money and material possessions, not in isolation, but in the context of the community and our relationship with and responsibility to other people?

Read Luke 18:9-12

- Not being a robber or evildoer or greedy is a good thing; fasting and praying are good things. So what was it about the Pharisees which turned these good things into bad things?
- Have you ever found yourself tempted by pride in your spiritual accomplishments or outward moral character?

Read Luke 18:13-14

- What is the significance of the fact that the tax collector stood at a distance from the temple and that he would not even look up as he prayed?
- How do you suppose he had come to realize his sinful and needy condition before God? What might the Holy Spirit have used or done to bring such strong conviction upon him?
- Have you ever experienced strong conviction about your unworthiness before God which you know had to have come from God? What was that like?
- Who do you suppose is more aware of their sinfulness and lack of righteousness: people who are outwardly good or those who are outwardly bad?
- We tend to think that bad people are more difficult to bring to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ than good people, but based on this awareness of sin, is this true?

Read Luke 18:15-17

- The opposite of generous is stingy. If Jesus was being generous in giving himself to the little children, does the adjective “stingy” apply to the disciples? Explain how this is so.
- Do you find it challenging to be consistently generous in all areas of your life (financial, relation and character)? Do you find you are generous in some areas and stingy in others? Why might this be?
- How was the tax collector from Jesus’ parable (18:13) coming to Jesus “like a little child”?
- Do you see any connection or similarity between Jesus’ statement that only those who humble themselves will be exalted and his statement that we must receive the kingdom of God like a child?

APPLY

- Which aspect of this study has struck you the most and why? What are you going to do as a result ?
- How does God's generosity towards you in giving Christ Jesus for your salvation, inspire you to be generous towards others?
- Identify one or more truths from this study (about generosity, self-righteousness, humility) which speak to and can be applied in your life.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR ONE ANOTHER

- According to need.