



November 10 – The Abundant Life...It's All About Heart

When you think about giving...to an organization, to support someone, and yes to a church – how do you go about thinking about it? Do you think with a heart of abundance or a heart of scarcity? Do you think with a heart of generosity or a heart of duty? Join us this weekend as we seek to understand how our heart condition is a HUGE part of having abundant life!

Scripture:

I Kings 17:8-16

⁸ Then the Lord said to Elijah, ⁹ “Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?” ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called to her, “Bring me a bite of bread, too.” ¹² But she said, “I swear by the Lord your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.” ¹³ But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!” ¹⁵ So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. ¹⁶ There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. ⁴³ Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. ⁴⁴ For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”

Questions:

- When you think of your resources: time, talent, finances – do you think with a generous mindset or a scarcity mindset?
- When you think about giving...to an organization, to support someone, and yes to a church – how do you go about thinking about it? Do you think with a heart of generosity or a heart of duty?
- One of the great criticisms of “church” is that “all a church wants is your money”. If you were to embrace the idea that this isn’t true...that the reason “church” talks about our money is because Jesus did...a lot...how might that change the way you think about giving?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: 2 Corinthians 9:7

Tuesday: Proverbs 3:9

Wednesday: Matthew 6:19-21

Thursday: 1 John 3:17

Friday: Deuteronomy 15:10