

**Sermon Notes**  
**Good News Church**  
***“Good News 101 – Our Generous God”***  
**Drue Warner**  
**11-16-25**

**OVERVIEW** – We’re talking about who we are as a church (Why do we exist? What is our purpose?), what we believe, what difference what we believe makes in our lives, and what is the Good News motivation undergirding our beliefs and behaviors.

- **Vision** – *“to experience and express LOVE from God and to others.”*
  - **Verse** – The verse that undergirds our vision is, *Galatians 5:6b, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*
- **Mission** – Our mission is *“to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship.”*

## **THE GOOD NEWS**

### **GNC BELIEFS**

- |                                   |                                         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. I’m broken.                    | I’m really broken and I need help.      |
| 2. Jesus is perfect.              | Jesus is perfect and He is my help.     |
| 3. Jesus is the only way...       | to healing in my relationship with God. |
| 4. The Holy Spirit is my power... | to live as a follower of Jesus.         |
| 5. God calls me into community... | to submit and to serve His Church       |

### **GNC BEHAVIORS (as a result of what we believe)**

1. Serving others (valuing others greater than myself)
2. Reconciling relationships (building bridges, not burning them)
3. **Giving generously (blessing others with my time, talent, and treasure)**

**LAST WEEK...** Kyle Drake *“Repentance in Relationships”*

**THIS WEEK...** **Giving generously (blessing others with my time, talent, and treasure)**

### **EXPECTATIONS WHEN PREACHING ON GENEROSITY**

Whenever pastors talk about generosity, we all have an expectation (and it’s usually not good). The unfortunate thing is that our expectations can get in the way of what God is doing and what God wants to do, because our expectations affect our disposition. So... I’m hoping to change that today. :)

Whenever I’m asked to give (i.e., money, time, stuff, etc.), my initial response is to tighten up. Why is that? Because I’m a greedy, selfish sinner! But whenever I look at the generosity of God towards me, it’s different. My response is that I want to be generous, and that generosity is not motivated by manipulation, guilt, or ulterior motives. It’s motivated by love. And THAT’S the generosity of God because there’s joy in it.

## **STRATEGY (talking about generosity) is important and makes sense.**

If you have a goal (I.e. score a touchdown), you can't just send 11 guys onto the field and expect to score. The QB gets the team in a huddle, communicates the strategy, and then seeks to execute, one play at a time, until they cross over the goal line. Every person has a different role to play. When they all know what their role is and they do their job, the team has the best chance to score and be successful.

## **I think everyone wants to be generous.**

- If we're not generous, it's usually rooted in fear or a lack of having been loved.

## **Generosity is a mindset and a lifestyle.**

- Are you a stingy or generous tipper? Why? ANSWER: Who is your Source (you or God)? Have you experienced God to be stingy or generous towards you?
- **There's nothing more freeing than to be freed up from having a "scarcity mindset."** When we know that God is our Source and our Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills, loves us, and loves to bless His children, we are freed up to share in the joy of generosity (and it definitely IS joyful)!

## **GENEROSITY STARTS WITH GOD**

### **Common Grace**

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. – James 1:17

"We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.

<sup>16</sup> In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup> Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." - Acts 14:15b-17 (Paul speaking to the people in Lystra, after healing a lame man and the people thinking he and Barnabas were the gods, Zeus and Hermes)

### **Think about how God been generous with you.**

- Talent, skills, abilities, employment, income, family, friends, transportation, ability to walk, talk, laugh, love, enjoy music, read, think, touch, feel, taste, hot water, coffee, etc., etc.

### **God's Most Generous Gift**

He who did not spare his own Son, but **gave him up for us all**—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? – Romans 8:32

For God so loved the world that **he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

**(It is) Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins** to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. - Galatians 1:3b - 5a

## Generous Salvation (Old Testament)

**“When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea. Yet he saved them for his name’s sake, to make his mighty power known.”**

- Psalms 106:7-8

## Hillside // The Temple (1 Chronicles 29:1-7, 9, 14-16)

Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. <sup>2</sup> With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood...

<sup>7</sup> They gave toward the work on the temple of God... <sup>9</sup> The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly... <sup>14</sup> “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. <sup>15</sup> We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. <sup>16</sup> Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.

## GOD’S TREASURED POSSESSION

**“Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen you to be his treasured possession.” - Deuteronomy 14:2**

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GENEROSITY

### Christ, Our Most Treasured Possession

Paul wrote from prison, “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things” (Philippians 3:8 ESV). And what did he gain in return? Not health. Not prosperity. But Christ. And for Paul, that was enough. Some of the most faithful Christians who ever lived died without money, without houses, without health, and without applause. **But they had Christ. And that was their treasure.”**

– Jeremiah Knight (“The Gospel We Forgot,” Part 8)

**When you invest your life in something, it’s natural for your resources to follow.**

**As a response to our generous God, we are a generous church and you are a generous people.**

- There are many in this room and a part of this church (here and far away) whose hearts have also been captivated and are **“all in.”**
- What if God did that with a bunch of us where we said, **“God, I’m all in on building Your kingdom. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth (in Buford, sugar Hill, Suwanee, Cumming, Gainesville, Duluth, Norcross, Johns Creek, etc.) as it is in heaven.”**
- God truly could use this **“rag tag”** group from the **“island of misfit toys”** to have a major impact for His kingdom in this community.

### **We have an amazing opportunity with Hillside.**

- We have a **vision to love and serve** (and a track record that goes with it).
- We have **relational influence** with community leaders.
- We have a **unique (God orchestrated) collective of gifted people** whose skills and talents all point to “build and bless.”
- And if Hillside comes through, we will have an unbelievable **home base for ministry**.

### **In these first five years this little brewery church has:**

- **Given away LOTS of resources (2024 - \$85K / 2025 - \$95K = \$15K + \$80 Hillside)**
  - Hurricane Helene relief (2024)
- **Impacted lives > Comments from people who have attended Good News Church**
  - *“That was the best church experience I’ve ever had.”*
  - *“I’ve never felt as at home in a church than I did this past Sunday.”*
  - *“I was pretty much done with church. Honestly, I’m surprised at how much I love this church. I’d say I’m 90% there to committing myself fully to Good News Church. I definitely didn’t see that coming, but the love, acceptance, and grace I’ve experienced here have paved the way back for me to God.”*
  - *“If we hadn’t found Good News Church when we did, I was definitely on my way to being an alcoholic.”*
  - *“There is a joy in that room that I haven’t felt in a church in years - if ever.”*
  - *“Good News Church was probably one of the best church experiences we’ve had as a family. Everyone was like, ‘Can we go there all the time??!’”*
  - *“I’m gonna be honest. I never invited a single person to church ever, until Good News Church. Now, I invite everybody!” - Cravens Doggett (6-22-25)*
  - *“If my mom knew I was going to church, she wouldn’t believe it. Especially that I’m sitting on the front row every week! Thank you for doing this. I really needed this. I can tell you that I would never go to a regular church, but I’ll come here. You make it easy. Thank you!”*
- Innovated in this concept of “church in a brewery” (a church planting friend is wanting to follow the model that we’ve done and did a Google search on “church and brewery.” He told me that our church was the first thing that popped up in his search. We’ve had articles written about us in the AJC and Outreach magazine

**We've been going for 5 years, and God has done A LOT so far in this little "start from scratch" nothing of a church, but we're only getting started.**

#### **WHAT'S OUR CAPACITY? NO IDEA**

- At Easter, the least likely person gave \$50,000.
- Last year, someone gave a house.
- I have no idea what we're capable of, and it doesn't matter. That's all up to God and is between Him and each of us.

**But, if we want to noodle a bit as to our giving capacity, here's a very conservative scenario as to what we "could do"...**

- **If our giving goal is 10% (which is reasonable / we tip 20%, God only asks for 10%), and our median income is \$75,000, and everyone in this church (60 households) were giving 10%, our giving would be \$450,000.** (Actual, not including large one time gifts = \$275,000). That would be a \$175,000 (40%) increase in ministry. We'd be off to a huge start with Hillside and would even allow us to hire done part time help with our children's ministry (which is needed).
- **If our median income was \$100,000 (actual for Sugar Hill), we would be at \$600,000 and our ability to do ministry would increase by \$325,000 (55%) increase. Wow!!!**

#### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

- **Our motivation to give is LOVE and... God's generosity towards us.**
- What if? What would happen if we all went "all in" together?
- The sky's the limit. Right now, we have an amazing opportunity with Hillside that you'll hear a lot more about in our meeting to follow, but I'm excited about what God is doing. It's a crazy adventure of faith where He's calling us to do far more than we think is possible. But that's what God does because that's how He stretches and grows our faith and increases our joy and impact. Let's roll!
- **There's no pressure for any of us to give anything!**
- **If you're "in Christ," God's love is infinitely great for you no matter what you do. The big thing is that whatever you do, you do it, not out of pressure and guilt, but out of love and joy.**
- **"For God so loved the world that he gave" Jesus... with no strings attached.**

**And THAT'S Good News!**