"GIVING LIKE JESUS"

GIVING IS SPIRITUAL

Matthew 6:21: "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

OUR GIVING REFLECTS WHO WE FOLLOW.

Who or what does your giving show you follow first?

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 "Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.' And God will generously provide all you need."

1. **WE GIVE GENEROUSLY**

Heaven doesn't measure generosity simply by amount. God measures generosity by sacrifice.

Are you generous if you only look at how much you have sacrificed for God?

2 Samuel 24:24 "I will not present burnt offerings to the LORD my God that have cost me nothing."

The cross wasn't convenient giving.
The cross was sacrificial giving.

2. WE GIVE WILLINGLY

2 Corinthians 9:7 "You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure."

Giving comes from a heart of GRATITUDE.

Has God been good to you?

What has He forgiven you for?

What has He provided you?

What has He brought you through?

What door has He opened?

What prayers has He answered?

Has He given you eternal life?

Is that enough for you to give out of love and gratitude?

3. WE GIVE CHEERFULLY

Have you gotten to a place where giving is worship?

Is it a joy for you?

What is your attitude during giving?

Are you sincerely cheerful when doing so?

4. WE GIVE FAITHFULLY

Are you a faithful giver?

What does that mean to you? "faithful giver"

1 Corinthians 4:2 "Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful."

Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it."

What is the difference of being an 'owner' verses a 'steward'?

1 Corinthians 16:2 "On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned."

Do you plan your generosity?

Is generosity planned out in your budget?

Is generosity something you figure out with the leftovers every month?

Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce."

5. WE GIVE COMPASSIONATELY

1 John 3:17 "If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?"

How are you generous outside of giving towards the ministry in this church?

Do you help families with groceries?

Do you donate clothes or used items instead of selling them for profit?

Do you give of your time?

Do you use your talents and help people who can't repay you?

6. WE GIVE EXPECTANTLY—BUT NOT SELFISHLY

Luke 6:38 "Give, and you will receive."

2 Corinthians 9:8 "God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."

Can God trust that if He blesses you, it will go THROUGH you and you will bless others with it?

If yes, when have you done this?

Christian giving is about becoming like Jesus… in what ways do you mimic Jesus' character?

Are you generous?

Are you compassionate?

Are you joyful?

Are you honest?

2 Corinthians 8:9 "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."

How are you demonstrating the love of God to other people? Through what actions?

Does your giving reflect the character of Christ?

Are you ready to use what is placed in your hands to honor God, advance His kingdom and bless somebody else?

Do you think you could look like Jesus if you don't give?

What stood out to you the most in todays sermon?