

Group/Individual Study

Series - Love Does: Unleashes Generosity

Passages: Prov 21:26, Haggai 1:6, Deut 28:2,5, Prov 3:9-10; Mal. 3:8-12

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 6/10

1. Sunday's message used three analogies to represent three mindsets we can have regarding generosity: "the bag" says "there is never enough; I can't share much;" "the basket" says "there is just enough because God provides --> I can be generous but it's a step of faith;" and "the barn" says, "I've been blessed with more than I need; how can I honor God with this?" If we're honest with each other, which one of these seems most like you? How is faith required for generosity no matter which of the three mindsets we start from?
2. Read Proverbs 21:26 and Proverbs 3:9-10. Both verses seem to express a different attitude towards money and generosity than the world around us generally holds. How would you characterize this difference? What part of this "speaks" to you?
3. Read Haggai 1:6. God's Word seems to teach that when we spend our lives trying to acquire more and more, the things we gather to ourselves don't satisfy. Have you ever seen this play out in lives around you? Conversely, have you ever experienced a deeper satisfaction and joy in what you **do** have, once you began to share it more generously?
4. Read Malachi 3:8-12.
 - o V.8-9 Try to look at things from God's perspective. Why might a lack of generosity on our parts look like "robbing God" from His perspective?
 - o V.10-11 What is the test God challenges His people to? Have you ever experienced God proving faithful in what He promises here regarding generosity?
 - o People often say, "You can't out-give God." What do you think they mean by this? Do you think it's true?
 - o V.12. This verse seems to imply that if God's people practice generosity, it is a witness to all the earth. How might this be so?
5. What do you think is the next step God might be calling you to in generous living?