



JESUS SAID...

Jesus Said – It's All About The Heart

Date: Sunday 1st October 2017

Speakers: Steve Philpott, Mike Gowan

Key Verses: Acts 20 v35, Matthew 6 v21, Deuteronomy 15 v7-15, Luke 6 v37-38

Summary

- Jesus said "it is better to give than to receive" Acts 20 v35
- What does the world say about this? We looked at: The world of work, our health, our marriages and our money. In all areas evidence suggests that generosity is good for career, business, health and longevity, happiness and satisfaction.
- We can know in our head, but generous living must come from the heart. "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also" Matthew 6v21
- Deuteronomy 15v7-15 tackles how to have a generous heart
 - v9 - Deal with a selfish heart, don't have wicked thoughts on whether you will get repaid
 - v10 - Deal with a grieving or grudging heart - see 2 Corinthians 9v7 on how to avoid regret
 - v14 - Develop a generous heart - Luke 6 v32-36 suggests what that should look like
 - v15 - Develop a grateful heart - the power of remembering

- *“People tend to have three styles of interaction. There are takers, who are always trying to serve themselves; matchers, who are always trying to get equal benefit for themselves and others; and givers, who are always trying to help people” – he goes on to say “this is what I find most magnetic about successful givers; they get to the top without cutting others down, finding ways of expanding the pie that benefits themselves and the group around them” – Adam Grant, leading management expert on how we find motivation & meaning.*

Questions for small groups

- Does the description Adam Grant gave above match your experience of people and the power of generosity?
- How would you describe your heart when it comes to living generously?
- Luke 6v37-38 is sometimes used to offer a formula which allows a guarantee of financial giving resulting in increased financial wealth, how do you read this passage? (judgement, condemnation, forgiveness?)
- Deuteronomy 15v7-15 offers a caution not to 'harbour wicked thoughts', or 'give with a grudging heart'; how can we develop a generous heart and a grateful heart?
- In what way is God challenging you about living generously?

To ponder or pray about this week...

Where and how in my life can I be more generous and in what ways can God use this?