

Pastor David's notes for 2/6-7/2010

The Gift of a Giving Life

# Generosity . . . of Head

"Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:31-38

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."

Philippians 4:8

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"Generosity . . . of Head"

Jesus called us to follow Him in living a life characterized by generosity of mind, heart, and action. For all of us this life begins with the transformation of how we think about ourselves and others that moves us:

1. From pride to empathy

2. From law to grace

3. From ignorance to understanding

Learning to think generously in our lives will involve consciously deciding and consistently choosing to:

1. believe better

2. withhold judgment

3. practice kindness

next week: "Generosity . . . of Heart" - Pastor Eric F.



# CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,  
and small group discussion & comment

“Generosity . . . of Head” - Luke 6:31-38; Romans 12:1-3;  
Philippians 4:8; Hebrews 4:12

1. Jesus’ teaching in Luke 6:31-38 is a startling rebuke of a religious mindset that only practices virtue toward those who return it, and only extends kindness and mercy to those who deserve it. When you read this passage, do you feel convicted or encouraged? Is this teaching consistent with what you know about how Jesus lived, and how He has related to you?

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2. What change does Jesus advocate we make in how we relate to others with the phrase in Luke 6:35, “without expecting anything back”? What is it that we usually expect to get back for our kindness, thoughtfulness, or generosity? What reason does Jesus give us for why we should think and act without regard to a return?

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3. The principle of reciprocity in Luke 6:37-38 defines the very nature of our relationship with God and shapes the outcome of our life and choices. We receive what we give. In the same proportional measure we give, it will be measured back to us. If this is true, no one should want to measure judgment, condemnation or anything but forgiveness and

kindness. In what ways has God been undeniably generous and kind to you? What impact has His generosity and kindness had on your life?

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4. Romans 12:2 urges us not to be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This renewal will result in our focus on the “good, pleasing and perfect” will of God. An unrenewed mind is bent on testing and proving the “bad, worse, and worst” of the world around us. Do you see evidence of this worldly pattern of seeing and believing the worst around you today? In what areas of your life does this effect you most? Where do you need to take a stand in your thoughts to not be conformed to such an agenda?

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5. Paul encouraged us to engage our minds in the direction of what is ultimately true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy (Phil 4:8). To practice such a direction of thinking on ourselves and others when we are such a mixture of good and not good requires diligence and discipline. Have you ever had someone in your life who thought the best of you? What impact did that have? Do you have people in your life that you are believing the better/best for right now?

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