

## Questions Jesus Asked Curriculum

### Week 2: May 24, 2020 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Speaker: DAVE

Text: How many loaves do you have? (Matt 15:34)

Addressing: generosity

**32** Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."

**33** His disciples answered, "Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?"

**34** "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.

"Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish." **Matthew 15**

What's one of the most generous gifts you've ever received and how did it make you feel to receive it?

Describe a time when you did something generous, including how it made you feel.

What circumstances or attitudes make it more difficult to be generous?

*Scarcity, fear of not enough, greed, coveting, finding status in wealth - we might not seek to elevate ourselves over others by our wealth but we may seek to avoid being judged by the world's standards because of a lack of wealth.*

What might it take for us to go from being generous when the mood strikes us to living a life of generosity? How can we invite the Holy Spirit into this endeavor?

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7** Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

What motivation can we draw from this passage?

*Being generous makes us like our Father in Heaven.*

*Being generous brings our Father joy.*

*Being generous will not impoverish us.*

**2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

How is generosity related to contentment? What is the ultimate point of living generous lives?

*When we are content and rest in God's provision, we are moved to give away what we have received because we trust that God will fill us back up. Living generous lives points to God and glorifies Him.*

**2 Corinthians 9:10-11** Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This passage says that God will increase the "harvest of our righteousness" - what seed are we sowing and who are we feeding, that results in a greater harvest of righteousness?

*We are sharing the good news with those who don't believe; we are feeding the lost and the hopeless with the bread of His Word and the hope found there. God gives us everything we need to accomplish His good purposes through us.*

What would it take for you to confidently believe that God will take care of you?

Imagine that you were selected to grant gifts to people from a sizable trust fund created by Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and Oprah. Do you find it harder or easier to be generous with someone else's resources?

**1 Chronicles 29:12 & 14** Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. "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.

*I'm tempted to become a hoarder when I get confused about ownership vs. stewardship. If I think I own the stuff in my possession, I get clingy. When I remember God owns it all and trusts me to manage some of his stuff, it becomes easier for me to have a giving heart. God puts some of his resources in my possession as a test to see what I'll do with it.*

What resources do we have besides money that we could be generous with? What does that look like in your own life?

*Time, talent, energy, caring/empathy/listening*

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. **2** He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. **3** “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. **4** All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” **Luke 21**

You don't have to be Bill Gates, Warren Buffet or Oprah to do something that God recognizes as generous. What small thing could you do this week to show generosity to someone?