

Core Values: Intentional Generosity

Summary

When we think of intentional generosity in the church we automatically think of money, tithes, and offerings. While money, tithes, and offerings fall under the umbrella of intentional generosity, there are other ways we as the church can be intentional with our generosity.

We can be generous in and through the way we live. We can show our generosity through our time, resources, money, talents, and passions. We will see some of these ways highlighted in this week's scripture to follow.

We are not looking at random acts of generosity but instead, at intentional generosity that is birthed out of a heart and mind transformed by the gospel of Jesus. We are looking for a life on the prowl to help those in need simply because God chased us down through Jesus and helped our greatest needs.

Romans 5:8-11

God wasn't generous to us because we were doing things right. He was generous to us because of His great love for us. While we were running from, angry at, enemies of God, He showed His love by giving His Son on our behalf.

Acts 2:37-47

We see such a transformation in this passage. These people devoted themselves to teaching and prayer and community. They were generous with their time to one another. They were also generous with their resources as they sold their possessions to give to their brothers and sisters in need. It's through the drastic change from the Holy Spirit that we see the church supporting others in these ways. As they continued to support each other the church grew.

In reading this passage, it's clear to see that there is a true transformation that happens to a group of people who are touched and transformed by the grace and mercy of Jesus. Regardless of how little they had, they were willing to give in abundance to those in need.

Matthew 25:31-46

The righteous response here is crucial. They were unaware that they helped Jesus. They couldn't recall the specifics of what Jesus was talking about. Sure, it was possible that maybe in their generosity they didn't see Jesus, but maybe what they saw was themselves. When Jesus saw us broken, hungry, and thirsty, he came down from his throne, saved us, and gave us a home and a place at his table. So perhaps when the righteous saw the least of these, broken, hungry, and thirsty, they saw themselves as Jesus saw them. Because of the transformation that occurred in

their hearts by being rescued and redeemed, they showed the same compassion that was shown to them. It was natural to them.

John 11:44

Jesus calls us to help unbind those who were once lost but are now a part of the family.

Some examples of intentional generosity are

- Having a cup of coffee with someone every week to help them overcome their addiction.
- Helping a single mother who is struggling financially.
- Providing a resource for a family who has fallen on hard times.
- Spending time with a couple trying to figure out marriage.
- Being intentionally generous to the church family you're a part of so that the church as a community can unbind those who are bound.

Questions for further study

1. Would you say that you are intentionally generous? If so, in what ways?
2. What are some areas in which you would like to be more intentional with your generosity?
3. How can you be intentionally generous this week?