

HEAD SCRATCHERS

let's talk



Generosity

Bates Alheit



1) God is Generous

(Colossians 1:16-17)

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- God created all, sustains all and holds it all together.



(John 3:16-17)

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

- He sent his Son to redeem those who are in glad rebellion against Him.



What is our response to this abundantly,
lavishly generous God?



2) The taking heart

(Luke 18:18-27)

18 A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good —except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.’” 21 “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.



22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. 24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”



26 Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?” 27 Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

- I earned it, I own it.
- The taking heart sees only me.



3 truths about the taking heart:

2a) The taking heart loves money

(1 Timothy 6:10a)

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

(Luke 16:13)

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”



2b) The taking heart is distracted by money

Money has the spiritual power to distract you from what is really important.

- What am I here for?
- What am I really achieving in this life?
- What is of true value in this life?



2c) The taking heart finds security in money

(Proverbs 18:11)

11 The rich think of their wealth as a strong defence; they imagine it to be a high wall of safety.

(Proverbs 11:4)

4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.



3) The giving heart

(Luke 19:1-10)

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.



5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”



9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

- God gives to me so that I am able to give to others.
- Is your hand open? Or are you tight fisted?



3 truths about the giving heart:

3a) The giving heart knows its treasure

(Matt 6:19-21)

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**



3b) The giving heart trusts God

(Hebrews 13:5)

5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, **"I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you"**.



3c) The giving heart is a good steward

(Matt Chandler)

“Grace is made visible when the people of God live with an open-handed understanding of all they have and all they are. They see themselves as not the owner of anything but rather as **stewards of all God has given.**”

- God gives us bread and seed.
- Do you need to have another look at how you spend your money?



(Proverbs 27:23-24)

23 Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds, 24 for riches don't last forever, and the crown might not be passed to the next generation.

(John Piper)

“What you do with every cent says something about your view of God and what he means to you.”



Tithe and offering

(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 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. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.



(John Piper)

“God gets glory when his people give generously. Why? Doesn't the Giver get the glory? Exactly! The Giver gets the glory! And the people who sow most bountifully display most vividly that their God is an inexhaustible Giver.”

- We give because we have been blessed so that we can be blessed to be the blessing God is calling us to be.



(Proverbs 11:24)

24 Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything.

- Being generous is not something we do, it is who we are.



HEAD SCRATCHERS

let's talk

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER @ 17:00

UNDERSTANDING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

@ CURRO SCHOOL HALL

