

## Choosing Generosity When You Feel Powerless

"What's On Your Mind?" series- Part 03

*Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following:* Discuss an event in your life where someone gave you something, considered insignificant by some, but for you, was of great value. Why was the gift so valuable for you?

*Let's get on the same page -*

Read the following verse and the quote below. Now discuss both with the following questions:

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 1 Tim. 6:9*

*"Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do." -Khalil Gibran*

1. How does the love of money become a root for evil?
2. How does an extreme love for money draw us away from our faith?
3. What kind of pain, pangs, anguish can be caused by pursuing wealth?
4. How does the above quote define "generosity"?
5. Why should someone give away something that they need more than the recipient?

Let's turn our attention to the teachings of Christ concerning our treasure(s) and our attitude toward them:

### **Book: Matthew 6:19-24**

Mat 6:19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.

Mat 6:20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

Mat 6:21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Mat 6:22 "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light.

Mat 6:23 But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

### ***Let's get into the Word:***

In verses 19-20, Jesus's instructs us to store up treasures....not on earth, but in heaven. Make a list of treasures that can be possessed on earth and those that can be stored in heaven:

On Earth	In Heaven

Now, read the following quote:

*“The Scripture teaches that the heart is the control center for life. A person’s life is a reflection of his heart. Proverbs 4:23 states it like this: ‘Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well spring of life.’ The word picture here is graphic. The heart is a well from which all the issues of life gush forth.”*

-Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child’s Heart* (Wapwallopen, Pennsylvania: Shepherd Press, 1995), p. 3.

Looking back at the list of treasures above, what does each one declare about our heart, attitude, and priorities?

Jesus, in verses 22-23 describes the importance of having the “right sight” or a “good eye” when it comes to managing our resources well. How can the pursuit of wealth distort our vision? How would you describe the “vision” of the Rich Fool in Luke 12?

In verse 24, Jesus tells us that we cannot serve two masters. If it is riches, those riches are our master, and they have control over us. If it is the Father, He is our Master, and He has control over us.

When it comes to your personal resources, who is the Master? What is the proof that God is in control?

**Getting personal (with self)!**

1. Where is your treasure?
2. How is your vision?
3. Who are you serving?