**Church values 2021: Generosity Bible study**

This is the second of three values we are focussing on as a church this year. Repentance was the first of these. Generosity is a natural follow-up to repentance because when I am restored to God and my fellow people, I want to contribute to humanity (and creation) flourishing.

**Discuss the following definition of generosity. How is the definition helpful? Are there areas where the definition is incomplete?**

**Generosity:** The desire of my heart to contribute all that I can to the flourishing of this world.

Where do you see the generosity of God in the world and in your life?

**The basic principle:**

Read Luke 3:8-11

 Why does John connect repentance with Fruit? How does the connection work?

What is the fruit look like according to v11? How does this help us define generosity? Give examples of what this might look like in practice?

Malachai 3:8-12 Robbing God, Opening the storehouse

According to these verses, when I am stingy what relationship am I affecting the most? How am I affecting this relationship?

1 Timothy 6:17-19

In times of crisis, a scarcity mindset—focusing on what we don’t have—can easily cause us to cling to worldly goods. Explain the mindset behind this? How do we change to one of trusting God’s generous love instead?

This passage includes a special command to the rich to be generous. We have all been given gifts that we can share with others, like our time, energy, care, prayer, resources, etc. Reflect on how you can share these elements specifically and with whom.

Reflection:

Three barriers to being generous were presented in the sermon. Reflect on each of these, describing how it affects generosity and then what can be done about it.

1. Scarcity
2. Idolatry
3. False humility

2nd Corinthians 8:1-9

In this passage, Paul says that becoming rich is found in Jesus. What does this mean?

Why is the gospel message an exemplar for how we are to think about life and resources?

The Macedonians are presented as a positive example of a group that joyfully gave in the midst of trial and poverty. As a group, they made a huge impact. What are some meaningful ways you can use generosity to make a difference in our time?

Personal Reflection questions:

* Where is God convicting me at present about how I share my resources? (Money, Time, Energy, Gifts)
* What might be barriers for me fully engaging with that conviction?
* How might I soften my heart to experience Godly Sorrow and be more repentant?
* What groups do I participate in within my communities (e.g. church) and how can I bless those groups more with what God has given me?