



## Part 3: Growing By Giving

### INTRODUCTION – OF WINE & WINESKINS

Romans 15:23-24; Matthew 9:16-17

**TAKE OUT #1:** New ideas must be appropriate to the current needs.

**TAKE OUT #2:** Structure is different than substance, but \_\_\_\_\_ have a role to play.

### Becoming Counter Cultural About “Stuff”

Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 13:1-6

**TAKE OUT #3:** Love means going beyond just helping, to \_\_\_\_\_ those in need.

#### INCARNATIONAL GENEROSITY...

When we deny ourselves things we may want in order to give away more than we would normally be able, we're accomplishing two things...

- 1.
- 2.

When you give in easy ways, you will help others, but you won't \_\_\_\_\_.  
When you give in ways that challenge your \_\_\_\_\_, you will help more, *and* you will grow more like Christ.

Luke 16:9

**TAKE OUT #4:** \_\_\_\_\_ in what you have and how you can use it to bless others, rather than what you don't have but would like to have.

Mark 4:18-19; Luke 19:8-9

#### SO WHAT? LIVING LIKE A CHRIST-FOLLOWER – A SIMPLE SUMMARY...

We are called to adjust our lives so that we live far enough \_\_\_\_\_ our means (*Ephesians 4:28*) so that we can give \_\_\_\_\_ what we should be expected to give (*2 Corinthians 8:3*).

Luke 12:33

### CONCLUSION – Giving As Symbolic Incarnation

2 Corinthians 8:9

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. Talk about your reaction to this quote by C.S. Lewis: *I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures excludes them.*
2. Use your notes to review this week's message. Talk about what points most challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you.

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read Jesus' teaching on money and possessions in **Luke 12:13-34**. a) What verse stands out to you the most? Why? b) What about Jesus' teaching strikes you as radically counter-cultural to the financial cues and counsel of our society? c) Some people think the Bible can't be relevant to us today because the context is so different, so outdated. How is the Jesus' teaching in this passage just as relevant and all the more pressing than it ever was in his day? List specific examples. d) How seriously do you think we should take Jesus' command to "**sell your possessions and give to charity**" (v. 33, NASB)? e) Rather than teach "you'll *naturally* give your money toward whatever is most important to you", Jesus seems to say "choose to give your money to what you believe is most significant, and your heart will follow" (v. 34). This is an amazing tool for personal growth. Invest your money and possessions in the direction you want to grow. Why do you think this might be the case that we grow toward what we give toward? d) How does the above quote by C.S. Lewis interact with this teaching of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?...

4. What is one lifestyle change you believe you can and should make to better align your life with Jesus' teaching in this passage? Pray for each other concerning this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, May 8 / 15, 2004



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