

LIFE CHANGING HABITS



GENEROSITY

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For the past three weeks Tyler has been teaching us that we must replace UNHEALTHY HABITS with LIFE-CHANGING HABITS. In part one we learned to replace GUILT with CONFESSION. In part two we replaced ANGER with FORGIVENESS. In this message we learn how to replace GREED with GENEROSITY.

The most life changing habits have to do with the heart.

GUARD YOUR HEART—READ Proverbs 4:23 - It is important that we put boundaries on our desires and not go after everything we see and want. Look straight ahead, keep your eyes fixed on our goal, and don't get sidetracked on detours that lead to sin. How easily are you distracted? Discuss some of the things that can sidetrack you.

Greed isn't a financial issue; it's a heart issue.

GREED—READ Luke 12:15 - Jesus says that the good life has nothing to do with being wealthy, so be on guard against greed. Greed creeps in, cleverly disguised, whenever you start thinking: "What I have is not enough." How do you respond to the constant pressure to have more?

The core of greed is idolatry.

UPGRADE MINDSET—READ Luke 12:16-21 - Why did God call him a fool? What was he focused on? Why?

When wealth (not God) becomes your hope, you feel compelled to hoard.

THE MIGRATION OF HOPE—READ 1 Timothy 6:6-10- Ephesus was a wealthy city, and the church probably had many wealthy members. Paul is instructing the people of potential problems when it comes to having riches. What is the main point he wants them to understand?

How do I combat greed?

- 1. Cultivate the heart habit of GRATITUDE—READ 1 Timothy 6:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Colossians 3:15-16.** Why is it important to make gratitude a habit?
- 2. Cultivate the heart habit of GENEROSITY—READ 1 Timothy 6:18-19 -** We must be careful not to put our hope in money instead of in the living God for our security. Tyler talks about automating the important. Even if we don't have material wealth, we can be rich in good deeds. **READ Matthew 6:19-23—**Spiritual vision is our capacity to see clearly what God wants us to do and see from His point of view. Discuss as a group the 3 questions below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does greed disguise itself, and how have you seen greed in your own life?
2. How would you explain the main points Jesus is making in his parable of the rich fool in Luke 12:15-21?
3. What specifically can you do to cultivate the habits of gratitude and generosity?

CHALLENGE—Begin a new daily habit to thank God for at least 3 things before you begin or end your day.

PRAY—*“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Psalm 139:23-24

COMMIT TO MEMORY—*“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”*

1 Timothy 6:18-19

READY TO SAY YES TO JESUS?

Are you ready to respond to the passage in Romans 10:9-10? Let us help you.

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