

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
DEVELOPING A HEART OF GENEROSITY, PT. 4
OCTOBER 2ND, 2016 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. Recap

- A. The Bible gives us clear instructions on giving, when to give and when not to.
- B. We are never to give when we are being coerced, manipulated, or pressured
- C. We are always to give first, as we are led, and according to what we have
- D. The tithe is a biblical principle and a baseline for giving. New Testament generosity goes beyond just the tithe.

II. How generosity impacts your heart

- A. There is a real and legitimate connection between generosity and your spiritual state. Let's consider how Jesus explained this connection.

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- B. This is a clear biblical principle: When you put your money into something your heart will be connected to that thing.

Mat 6:22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

- C. Jesus then says that your eye(affections) will light(impact) your soul in a powerful way. Whatever you put your eye(affections) upon will cause your soul to be filled with that thing, either light or darkness

- D. In other words where you put your money directs your affections and where you direct your affections impacts your soul.

Mat 6:23-24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- E. He then brings the teaching to the issue of allegiance. There is no way to serve the God of heaven and mammon.

1. Mammon was a false god, known as the god of riches and pleasure.
2. Here it speaks of the spirit of the age, lust for things, worldly pleasures, status & power.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
DEVELOPING A HEART OF GENEROSITY, PT. 4
OCTOBER 2ND, 2016 – BILLY HUMPHREY

F. In other words wherever your finances go directs your affections and wherever your affections go directs your allegiance. There is no way to divide your allegiance between two masters. The lust for worldly pleasures stands in opposition to serving the Lord with all your heart.

G. A person's inner-life, their affections and allegiance, is easy to discern if we look at how they spend their time and money

III. The key to extravagant generosity

A. Widow's mite (Mar 12:41 – 44)

B. Macedonia (2 Cor 8:1-5)

2Co 8:5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

1. "They first gave themselves to the Lord" – this is a critical principle, for generosity to be a reality in the lives of people there must be a giving of yourselves first.

2. If there isn't first a "giving of yourself", you will never give your finance, possessions, time and heart.

IV. Revival under Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-31)

A. Hezekiah re-opened the Temple (2 Chron 29:3)

B. Consecrated the Levites, Priesthood and Temple (2 Chron 29:4-19)

2Ch 29:11 My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense."

C. Gathered all the leaders with the Levites and worshipped (2 Chron 29:20-30)

D. The leaders and Levites gave generously (2 Chron 29:31-36)

2Ch 29:31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD." So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings, and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.

E. Called all Israel to keep the Passover (2 Chron 30:1 – 12)

2Ch 30:12 Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to obey the command of the king ...

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
DEVELOPING A HEART OF GENEROSITY, PT. 4
OCTOBER 2ND, 2016 – BILLY HUMPHREY

F. People responded and came from all over to worship the Lord (2 Chron 30:13 - 27)

1. The people cleansed Jerusalem of all idolatry (2 Chron 30:14)
2. The king and the leaders all gave generously, 2000 bulls, 17,000 sheep (2 Chron 30:24)
3. Great joy filled the city (2 Chron 30:26)
4. There was a breakthrough in prayer (2 Chron 30:27)

G. All the people went throughout Israel and cleansed all the idolatry (2 Chron 31:1)

H. The King supported the Levites to serve the Lord night and day (2 Chron 31:2-3)

I. The people followed and gave extravagantly to support the work of night and day worship (2 Chron 31:4 – 10)

2Ch 31:6-7 And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God they laid in heaps. 7 In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month.