

So ask yourself, how does my giving reflect what you have received in life? How does it reflect God's generous Spirit? Write your thoughts here and pray for insights on how your life should reflect your great priorities and relationships.

Thursday, October 22

Read II Corinthians 8:1-9. The second element of giving that Pastor Jack shared was our giving should be sacrificial. If what you give toward the mission and ministry of the church has no bearing on your financial planning, then ask yourself, "Am I truly being generous?" Of course, God doesn't want you to shirk your responsibilities to your family and other obligations. Think about the poor Macedonians who "gave what they could afford and even more." Sacrificial giving is about the impact your giving makes on your life; putting your treasurer where your heart is. Write your thoughts here praying for God's guidance for your sacrificial giving.

Friday, October 23

Read Acts 20:25-35. Paul quotes Jesus as saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Paul himself wrote, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." The third element that Pastor Jack suggested for your giving is that it should be regular. It should be a regular practice, just like any other spiritual discipline. Giving regularly takes the guess work out of your giving allowing you to be a "cheerful giver" and "blessed to give!" Write your thoughts on what regular giving would like in your life; weekly, every payday, once a month? Pray that God give you a spirit of generosity that yields blessings and cheerfulness in your life!

Message Notes – October 18, 2020

*Jesus and We – Irrationally Generous**

- I. We are focusing on what we are able to do as the church of Jesus in the world today when we work together and support the work that _____ through Jesus is doing in the world.
 - A. The four messages that I am offering you this month are actually _____ statements.
 - B. First we talked about what it would mean to be _____-filled, _____-thinking, bet the farm risk-taking in our approach to changing our world with the love of Christ.
 - C. Last week I asked the question, "Are we spiritual _____ - or spiritual _____?"
 - D. Today I want to recognize another value that I believe our church embraces: _____.
- II. Ever since reading Stephen Covey's book, *Five Habits of Highly Effective People*, I've been thankful for learning the concept of abundance mindset over the scarcity mindset.
 - A. If we have a scarcity mindset there is never _____.
 - B. An abundance mindset allows you to realize that there is always _____.
- III. That Abundance Mindset was how the Macedonian Church approached an appeal that Paul made in order that the church in _____ would be supported.
 - A. They gave _____ to their fellow Christ-followers in Jerusalem.
 - B. Paul had a different way of _____ the Macedonians' offering.
 1. Paul counted the based not on its size but on its impact on the _____.

*Acts 20:25-35 and II Corinthians 8:1-9

2. Paul counted it based not on how much people gave but on how much they had _____ afterward.
3. Paul counted the offering based not on the offering itself but on the _____ of the giver.

IV. Friends, I know that _____ is a value of this church and I also know that we have experienced some tough times.

- A. I want to make clear what is true for each Generosity Campaign when we are encouraging our members and friends to support us financially. It's about our _____.
- B. When it comes to our Generosity Campaigns, I get asked by our members and friends what they should _____. The three elements of giving that I have found helpful.
 1. It is about your _____ with God.
 2. Second, your giving should be _____.
 3. Finally, your giving should be _____.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, October 19

Read Acts 20:25-35. Pastor Jack shared during the message that the message titles for our Generosity Campaign are actually value statements. First we need to be bold enough to be faith-filled, big-thinking, bet the farm risk-taking in approaching our ministry. We can't expect great things for our church unless we take great risks. Second we asked the question, "Are we spiritual consumers or contributors?" We believe we are called to be contributors to the work of God in the world and that God equips that call. This past Sunday, we said we are irrationally generous. The idea is

that we give out of a sense of our need to give and reflect God's generous spirit. Do you agree with these value statements for our church? What other values do you believe our church embraces? Consider these thoughts and write your ideas here, praying for God's guidance to shape our community and values.

Tuesday, October 20

Read II Corinthians 8:1-9. We talked in the message the difference between a scarcity mindset and an abundance mindset. "A scarcity mindset is the belief that there will never be enough, resulting in feelings of fear, stress, and anxiety. On the other hand, an abundance mindset flows out of a deep inner sense of personal worth and security. It's grounded in the belief that there is more than enough for everyone." (From jessicadw.com › blog › how-to-shift-from-a-scarcity-to-abundance-mindset) Depending on which mindset is primary in your life, you may approach your relationships, work, faith and life itself very differently. Which mindset do you believe you possess? Do you worry about the amount of resources you need to complete a task or are you confident everything will work out? Think about these concepts and write your response here.

Wednesday, October 21

Read Acts 20:25-35. Pastor Jack once again shared three elements necessary for being generous. First is your giving is about your relationship with God. It should reflect God's generosity in your life; the many blessings you've received from God. Sure, the church would like to receive your Generosity Card so that we can plan our budget, but the amount is up to you. A tithe (10% of your income) is the Biblical standard, however, like all spiritual disciplines; you can work on your giving over time.