



“IMMEASURABLY MORE”
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Leadership Training
August 21, 2024, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

I. A Song of Praise

II. Two questions:

A. *“Who or what has influenced you positively or negatively regarding generosity?”*

B. *“Who is the most generous person you know?”*

III. Let us consider “generosity” in the light of the Apostles Creed, a basic statement of our

baptismal _____. Martin Luther provides insights in his explanation of the three articles of this creed.

A. *“I _____ that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them; He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine*

goodness and mercy without _____ merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my

duty to _____ and _____, to _____ and _____ Him. This is most certainly true.”

B. *“I _____ that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His*

innocent suffering and death, that I may be His _____, _____ under Him in His

kingdom and _____ Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.”

- C. “I _____ that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel,

enlightened me with His _____, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.”

- IV. Paul’s prayer for the church in Ephesians 3:14-21 (for them and for us) concludes with These powerful words, “Now to him who is able do *IMMEASURABLY MORE* than all that we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (NIV)

- A. What are three challenges church leaders face in this regard?

1. There is a _____ challenge. “Do __ believe it?”
2. There is a _____ challenge? “Do ____ believe it?”
3. There is a _____ challenge. Am __, are ____ willing to _____ it?

- B. What are the “tensions” involved with teaching/learning *immeasurably more* generosity?

1. On the one hand we do not want to be _____.
2. On the other hand, we do not want to forget about the _____.
3. The tension lies in distinguishing between _____ and _____.

- C. What is the “solution” to these tensions?

1. Our teaching/leading/learning must **not** be focused on _____ raising.
2. Our teaching/leading/learning must be on _____ raising based on the _____ !

V. What are some Biblical principles that can help people grow in *immeasurably more* generosity?

- A. In the beginning, _____ created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
- B. Abraham gave Melchizedek a _____ of everything he had. Genesis 14:20
Hebrews 7:1-10
- C. Jacob promised to give God a _____ of everything he had. Genesis 28:22
- D. The Old Testament had several types of “mandatory” offerings, i.e. taxes.
 - 1. There was the _____ (or Levites’) tithe. Lev. 27:30-33; Num. 18:18-24ff
 - 2. There were the _____ tithes. Deuteronomy 12:5-12; 14:22-27
 - 3. There was the _____ tithe. Deuteronomy 14:28-29
 - 4. There was “_____” with the poor. and foreigner.
Leviticus 19:9-10
 - 5. There was a half-shekel _____ “charge.” Exodus 30:13; Matthew 17:24
 - 6. There was a stern _____ and a great _____ regarding their offerings (or lack thereof). Malachi 3:6-12
- E. There were also “other” offerings. Let us look at two notable ones.
 - 1. There was a _____ and _____ offering at Mount Sinai to build the Tabernacle and its furnishings. Exodus 35:4-36:7
 - 2. There was a _____ at the end of King David’s reign to build the Temple in Jerusalem. Here are some key learnings from this experience. I Chronicles 28-29.
 - a. King David speaks about the _____, the _____ and the _____.
I Chronicles 28:1-20
 - b. He shares a case statement, plan, and vision and _____
King Solomon, the leaders and the people. 1 Chronicles 28:1-21

b. He reminds the assembly of the ultimate purpose of the campaign:

It will not be for _____ but for _____. 1 Chronicles 29:1

c. He then gives a _____ about what he will give. Note the two sources of his gifts. 1 Chronicles 29:2-5

d. In response the _____ and the _____ make their _____ offerings. Note the amount and the types of offerings they gave. 1 Chronicles 29:6-9

e. King David then led the assembly in a great _____ of adoration, confession, intercession and praise. 1 Chronicles 29:10-20a

f. In response the _____ paid homage to the Lord and gave their offerings as they celebrated a Jerusalem BBQ. 1 Chron. 20b-22

VI. So, what do these words from God have to say to the people called Gloria Dei in Nassau Bay during this ***“Immeasurably MORE”*** adventure?

A. Here are a few thoughts that come to my mind.

1. We are not _____ by the Law. We are set free to _____ it.
2. There is a distinction between giving our “_____” and “_____.”
3. We are called to grow in our _____ and _____.
4. Do we really believe that “it is more blessed to _____ than to _____?”

B. What teaching speaks to your heart tonight?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

VII. Closing Prayer



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III. Let us consider “generosity” in the light of the Apostles Creed, a basic statement of our baptismal **FAITH**. Martin Luther provides insights in his explanation of the three articles of this creed.

A. *“I **BELIEVE** that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them; He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine*

*goodness and mercy without **ANY** merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my*

*duty to **THANK** and **PRAISE**, to **SERVE** and **OBEY** Him. This is most certainly true.”*

B. *“I **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His*

*innocent suffering and death, that I may be His **OWN, LIVE** under Him in His*

*kingdom and **SERVE** Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.”*

C. “I **BELIEVE** that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me

with His **GIFTS**, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.”

IV. Paul’s prayer for the church in Ephesians 3:14-21 (for them and for us) concludes with These powerful words, “Now to him who is able do **IMMEASURABLY MORE** than all that we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (NIV)

A. What are three challenges church leaders face in this regard?

1. There is a **PERSONAL** challenge. “Do **I** believe it?”
2. There is a **LEADERSHIP** challenge? “Do **WE** believe it?”
3. There is a **CORPORATE** challenge. Am **I**, are **WE** willing to **LIVE** it?

B. What are the “tensions” involved with teaching/learning *immeasurably more* generosity?

1. On the one hand we do not want to be **LEGALISTIC**.
2. On the other hand, we do not want to forget about the **LAW**.
3. The tension lies in distinguishing between **LAW** and **GOSPEL/GRACE**.

C. What is the “solution” to these tensions?

1. Our teaching/leading/learning must **not** be focused on **FUND** raising.
2. Our teaching/leading/learning must be on **FAITH** raising based on the **GOD’S WORD!**

V. What are some Biblical principles that can help people grow in *immeasurably more* generosity?

- A. In the beginning, **GOD** created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
- B. Abraham gave Melchizedek a **TITHE/TENTH** of everything he had. Genesis 14:20
Hebrews 7:1-10
- C. Jacob promised to give God a **TITHE/TENTH** of everything he had. Genesis 28:22
- D. The Old Testament had several types of “mandatory” offerings, i.e. taxes.
 - 1. There was the **LORD'S** (or Levites') tithe. Lev. 27:30-33; Num. 18:18-24ff
 - 2. There were the **FESTIVAL** tithes. Deuteronomy 12:5-12; 14:22-27
 - 3. There was the **POOR** tithe. Deuteronomy 14:28-29
 - 4. There was “**PRODUCE SHARING**” with the poor. and foreigner.
Leviticus 19:9-10
 - 5. There was a half-shekel **TEMPLE** charge.” Exodus 30:13; Matthew 17:24
 - 6. There was a stern **WARNING** and a great **PROMISE** regarding their offerings (or lack thereof). Malachi 3:6-12
- E. There were also “other” offerings. Let us look at two notable ones.
 - 1. There were **VOLUNTARY** and **FREE WILL** offerings at Mount Sinai to build the Tabernacle and its furnishings. Exodus 35:4-36:7
 - 2. There was a **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** at the end of King David's reign to build the Temple in Jerusalem. Here are some key learnings from this experience.
I Chronicles 28-29.
 - a. King David speaks about the **PAST**, the **PRESENT** and the **FUTURE**. I Chronicles 28:1-20
 - b. He shares a case statement, plan, and vision and **CHALLENGES** King Solomon, the leaders and the people. 1 Chronicles 28:1-21

b. He reminds the assembly of the ultimate purpose of the campaign:

It will not be for MAN but for GOD. 1 Chronicles 29:1

c. He then gives a PERSONAL TESTIMONY about what he will give. Note the two sources of his gifts. 1 Chronicles 29:2-5

d. In response the LEADERS and the OTHERS make their SACRIFICIAL offerings. Note the amount and the types of offerings they gave. 1 Chronicles 29:6-9

e. King David then led the assembly in a great PRAYER of adoration, confession, intercession and praise. 1 Chronicles 29:10-20a

f. In response the ENTIRE ASSEMBLY paid homage to the Lord and gave their offerings as they celebrated a Jerusalem BBQ. 1 Chron. 20b-22

VI. So, what do these words from God have to say to the people called Gloria Dei in Nassau Bay during this ***“IMMEASUREABLY MORE”*** adventure?

A. Here are a few thoughts that come to my mind.

1. We are not BOUND by the Law. We are set free to EXCEED it.
2. There is a distinction between giving our “TITHES” and “OFFERINGS.”
3. We are called to grow in our FAITH and GEMEROSITY/GIVING.
4. Do we really believe that “it is more blessed to GIVE than to RECEIVE?”

B. What teaching speaks to your heart tonight?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
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VII. Closing Prayer