



Wise Up! A series in Proverbs Generosity: Abundance & Trust

Date: Sunday 24th July

Speaker: Jeff Stamps (South Site), Peter Hawkins (City Centre)

Key Verses: Proverbs 11:24-28

Talk Summary:

How we spend our money reveals the way we view ourselves and the world. This is why the bible speaks about money because it reveals our heart. (Matthew 6:21)

1. Have a Mind-set of Abundance – God is a God of Abundance:

- “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.” – Proverbs 11:24
- This is said another way by Jesus in the New Testament: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” – Luke 6:38
- We see in these two passages the upside-down economy of the Kingdom.
- The picture here is that when we use finances as God intended, then there is a constant inflow. We give out, God gives in. Much like a natural spring or a well.
- The bible encourages us to have a mind-set of abundance. God owns all the resources in the world (Psalm 50:9-13) and He is sovereign, He is in control and He can direct them to wherever they are needed.

2. Have a Posture of Trust – God Loves Me and Knows What I Need:

- Money is a great tool but it is a terrible god - what I mean by god is the thing that you trust in to save you in difficult times or bring you joy in times of sorrow
- “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” – Matthew 6:24
- “Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.” – Proverbs 11:28

- A mind-set of abundance will only get you so far if it is not paired with a posture of trust. If you are going to be freed from fear and anxiety and released into generosity, you not only need to know God can provide but trust that He will.
- For me this trust has a lot to do with knowing my identity. I am a beloved child of God. He is my good and generous Father who knows what I need and has promised to provide it.
- God also encourages us to test Him in this (Malachi 3:10)
- Carry money, be prepared to give it. See what God does and tell the story.
- Generosity is an adventure with God.

Why Choose Generosity?

1. Others will be blessed: God's plan A is to meet the needs of the world by placing resources in the hands of those who know Him. When we steward well what God has given us, the needy get what they need. This is a huge blessing practically but also physiologically and emotionally.
2. You will be blessed: As we have seen, God will provide for you but Proverbs also says when you give to the needy they pray a blessing for you. When you bless others they will bless you back and so will God!
3. God is blessed: God is a generous God. When we are generous we are revealing who God is to others and that results in Him getting more praise.

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." – 2 Corinthians 9:11

How Do We Know If We Are Generous?

- Ask others
- Observe yourself
- Ask God

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- When it comes to generosity, do you feel like you are giving out of God's abundance or your lack?
- Do you find it easy to trust God when it comes to your finances? Why?
- When have you experienced God's provision?
- Over the last two weeks what has God been challenging you on in the realm of your personal finances?

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (go to bvc.so/whats-on for details)