

The Generosity of God in the Parables of Jesus

Focus: on delighting in and imitating the generosity of God as seen in the parables of Jesus

RESOURCES:

Here are the critical links for all the JOF info.:

<http://northwake.com/resources/articles/jof-building-campaign/>

And here is the article that got me started thinking about the generosity of God in Jesus' stories:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/september/why-jesus-not-salvation-is-gods-greatest-gift-to-us.html?share=YHK2Fj3CLWb26PhQgqT%2bv74WWIUufY5y>

2016 Annual Priority:

To establish a greater devotion to believing and being shaped by the three great loves embedded in our mission statement's goal of becoming a mature and ministering worshiper of God; love for God, love for the church, and love of neighbor.

Discussion:

(The nature of this sermon makes it a tough one to discuss the biblical texts involved (6 parables). As a result, you may need to focus more on your groups awareness of how God was pressing them for application from this message.)

- Do a quick review of the parables we touched on (the list is below) and ask your group to share either: 1) which of the portraits of God's generosity was most impactful or 2) how the steady portrayal of God's generosity in all 6 parables affected you.

Here's the list:

- God as father in Luke 15
- God as king in Matt. 18.21-35
- God as master/owner in Luke 14.12-24; Matt. 20.1-16; 24:45-51; 25.14-30
- What are sticking points for you that keep you from being more gladly generous? How ought the generosity of God free you from those struggles? (see 2 cor. 9.11)
- Discuss this last question as it relates to JOF. There may be some statistics that will help you in the materials on our website (see the sidebar link)

