

Growth Group Questions

10th Sunday after Pentecost ~ July 28, 2024

Introduction

Luther famously said, “the last thing to be converted is our wallets.” Why do you think giving is such a thorn for believers?

Into the Word – Exodus 16:1-15

1. Why did the Israelites grumble against Moses and Aaron? (And was their memory of Egypt accurate?)
2. Whenever we grumble about our leaders or our circumstances, against whom are we really grumbling?
3. How did God provide for his people in this account?
4. What tone would you have used in verse 12 if you were the one being complained to? How was God’s tone apparently different and what does that tell us about him? About us?
5. Some have tried to find a natural explanation for manna. What details from these verses (and the rest of the chapter) make it impossible for this to be anything less than a miracle?

Into the Word – 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

6. Our text comes at the end of two chapters of Paul talking about a collection taken up by the Greek Christians to help the Christians in Jerusalem during a famine. As you have time, scan the verses beginning at 8:1 to get the context of Paul’s encouragements to Christian giving.

7. Agree/Disagree? A person can never “outgive” God.
8. Privately compare what you give to the Lord’s work versus other areas of your life. (phone bill, internet, hobbies, etc.) Is your wallet as converted as your heart yet?
9. Being generous & trusting doesn’t mean being foolish and not planning. Can you think of a time in Scripture where financial planning was done and money set aside for a future project? (If nothing comes to you, check out the fine print at the end.)

Into the Word – Mark 6:35-44

10. We know this account of the feeding of the 5,000 very well. Note that it is Mark who gives us the details of the feeding itself. Does Jesus ever speak to the people or feed them himself during the feeding? (Read v. 39 and 41 carefully. (Jesus “directed them” and “gave them”))
11. While this is a description of a miracle and not a prescription for how to do ministry, what do we learn in generalities about God and ministry from the way Jesus brought food to this crowd?
12. Why do you think Mark makes a point to record how much was left over? Was Jesus being wasteful or was he trying to teach the crowd something else?

Closing Prayer

Savior Jesus, thank you for every blessing you have given. Let your loving generosity to me guide my generosity to others. Amen.
(King David set aside money for the temple. Remember!)