

# Radical Generosity

November 2022

## Introduction

Our economy depends on consumerism- *people's preoccupation with acquiring more goods*. This desire to acquire more confirms what the Apostle Paul says that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil and has only led to dissatisfaction. We have put our trust and security in our money and possessions, thereby making them an idol—replacing God with created things. This pursuit is sinful behavior and results in perpetual loss. Fortunately, God has created us to find our provision in Him alone. As we delight in God, He transforms the desires of our hearts and our relationship with money and possessions. Since everything we need comes from God, we can be free to not rely on the economics of our world. How do we begin to live in God's economy of **freedom, contentment, and radical generosity**?

## Summary Statement

Life Canton will Reclaim our Identity in Jesus as it relates to our money and possessions. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus says, "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." If money becomes our master, it will never matter how much we have; whether we are poor or rich, we will always *want* more and even convince ourselves that we *need* more. Our culture has collaborated with the Devil and convinced you that your money is "yours." We are in chains. These chains have become our identity.

Reclaiming our identity is recognizing that every good and perfect gift comes from God. Money is not inherently evil, but the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Money is a gift and a tool to be stewarded wisely. We must first examine our relationship with money. Jesus said, "Wherever your treasure is, there the desire of your heart will also be." Jesus didn't simply preach this, He lived it. Jesus gave every bit of himself on the cross and is consistent in his faithful grace to us daily. Once we Encounter Jesus and are transformed by His love, we recognize that our money is all God's to begin with. It starts to shift our perspective away from hoarding more for ourselves and toward a perspective of generosity.

As we submit to God, we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. God's Spirit transforms our hearts away from fear-based scarcity and consumerism toward **freedom**. As we cultivate that freedom and learn to manage money as a tool rather than treating it like an idol, we begin to experience **contentment** regardless of whatever dollar amount is in our bank account. Contentment begins with being satisfied with what we already have. It is an ease of mind. When we grow in contentment, everything we have beyond our basic needs is seen as an abundant gift from God.

Jesus gave everything, and it's why we do "Whatever It Takes, and go Wherever It Takes Us." We reorder our finances by engaging in the obedient discipline of tithing (giving 10% of what we receive to the local church). When we engage in this **heart-leading discipline**, we begin to reclaim the truth that all of our money and possessions are, in fact, God's. With this truth, we grow in generosity beyond. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." This is a radical concept in our culture, but because of Jesus, we can't help but follow this model of **radical generosity**. Giving is no longer simply an act of duty; it's joyful obedience and worship flowing from our identity in Jesus! And while this may seem radical to our culture, it is core to who we are—radically generous. Consistent obedience leads to gratitude, which leads to radical generosity. This multiplies the love of God in others.

### Primary Texts

Matthew 6:24  
Acts 20:35  
Romans 12:1-2  
2 Corinthians 8-9  
James 1:17

### Secondary Texts

Matthew 6:19-21  
Galatians 5:1  
1 Timothy 6:10  
Philippians 4:12-13