

# 20/20

DISCOVERING GOD'S VISION FOR MY LIFE

## How Generosity Changes What I See and Who I Become

*Pastor Doug Heisel – March 10, 2019*

Matthew 20:1-16 – (Jesus said) For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

### **How Generosity positively effects me:**

- 1. Generosity ALIGNS me with God's nature and a core value in His Kingdom. That POSITIONS me see what I would otherwise be blinded to.**

Matthew 19:20-22 – "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

**2. Generosity COMMUNICATES a message that is greater than the money.**

“These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us...”

Proverbs 14:31 – He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.

Romans 12:10b – Outdo one another in showing honor.

*A New Life Church Core Conviction: We are contagious with joy, honor, and gratitude. We believe the best in people, speak vision and life over them. We are a generation of honor, known for what we are for, not against. We are FOR seeing broken lives changed by Christ. We are FOR new beginnings. We are FOR loving and serving others. We are FOR communicating in gracious rather than judgmental ways...*

**3. Generosity STRENGTHENS me and EXPANDS me, in spite of the voices that do not understand it or support it.**

Isaiah 32:8 – But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.

Proverbs 11:24-26 – The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

2 Corinthians 9:8 – And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

*A New Life Church Core Value: We will lead the way in generosity, out of recognition of how ridiculously generous Jesus is to us. We all start as spiritual consumers but soon we can't help but become spiritual contributors. Our staff and congregation joyfully put God first, and we feel honored to watch Him advance His work through us: locally, regionally and globally. We believe that bringing our tithes and offerings is an act of worship and we do this with great joy.*

## **Life Group Discussion & Questions**

**BREAKING THE ICE:** How have you seen generosity modeled by others? What impact did it have on you?

**DIGGING IN:** Read Matthew 19:16-30 and Matthew 20:1-16. The parable in Matthew chapter 20 is preceded by a conversation with Jesus and a wealthy young leader. Materialism had “blinded” the young man, to his own shortcomings. Jesus’ disciples also lacked clarity on the topic. So Jesus tells this unusual parable to underscore the value and power of generosity

1. In Jesus’ parable the owner not only saw people in need, he was ridiculously generous to them. If you were in the early crowd of workers how do you think you would have reacted to the owners generosity?
2. Review points 1 and 2, from these notes, and the corresponding verses. They speak about how generosity can change us. If it has changed you, share what change has occurred and how it has since impacted you or others.
3. Review point number 3 and the corresponding verses. What “voices” do you think discourage people from being more generous or what “voices” have you had to overcome in your own journey of generosity?

**BRINGING IT HOME:** Lean into this topic by taking the next 7 days to pray about how God wants to stretch you – how He wants could bless you to be a blessing. Let more faith and more generosity grow in you, as a result. Stand firm in it!