

TALK IT OVER

AM I GENEROUS?

DIG DEEPER

One of the most extraordinary bible passages that reveals genuine worship is found in **John 12:1-6**. It is the story of a woman named Mary, so grateful towards Jesus, that she pours a costly perfume on His feet, worth the equivalent of a year's work. On the other hand, we see the attitude of Judas, who doesn't understand what happened. To him it was all a waste. Giving always reveals what's inside the heart.

The enemy of generosity is selfishness. We were all born selfish, but the minute we are born-again, we begin a process of renewing our minds and becoming generous like our Creator. We would never think about taking money out of the offering that is collected in church, but isn't it the same not to put in the offering what we know we should? **(James 4:17)**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Judas reacted the way he did after seeing Mary's act of worship?
2. In your opinion, does not tithing correctly have consequences? If so, what are they?
3. What promises are in the Bible for those who honor God by tithing and giving generously?



"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully, will also reap bountifully."

- 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NKJV)

SIMPLICITY

There are three levels of Giving: **1. Tithes 2. Offerings 3. Extravagant Offerings**

Statistics say that only 5-7% tithe correctly. That means that 93-95% of those who attend church regularly haven't even made it to the first level of giving!

Once we are free from selfishness, and can give to God and others freely, we are ready to be rewarded for our generosity. Mary was rewarded **(Mark 14:9)**. God assures us that He is a "rewarder" of those who seek and obey him. This is the only place in the Bible where this word appears in the original Greek language; it translates - *to reward with extravagance*.

Dear friend, be faithful to God with your tithes, and honor Him with your offerings. Break the curse of selfishness, and you will see how the doors of heaven will open over your life, and His reward will overtake you!

Class # 30

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S CONFERENCE (INFLUENTIAL)
BAPTISM (Bill Baggs State Park)
NEXT STEPS

August 20-21
Sept. 3 (10am Pavilion A1)
Sept. 5 (9am in person or via Zoom)