

THE GENEROUS HEART

· A BIBLE STUDY FEAST FOR ALL ·

Takeaway!

A psalm. For giving grateful **PRAISE**.

SHOUT for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

WORSHIP the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

KNOW that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

ENTER his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his **LOVE** endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

(Psalm 100: 1–5)

“The highest kind of obedience is not based on a desire for reward or the fear of punishment. It is motivated by love. In His life and His teaching, Jesus tried to show the people that the inner spiritual blessings are far more important than the material gains. God sees the heart, and God wants to build character. Salvation is the gift of God in response to man’s faith. Material riches are not a guarantee that God is pleased with a man.” (Warren W. Weirsbe, 2007)

DISCIPLESHIP QUOTES

Discuss the following quotes about discipleship.

- Which ones resonate with you or challenges you the most?

‘The trouble with deep belief is that it costs something. And there is something inside me, some selfish beast of a subtle thing that doesn’t like the truth at all because it carries responsibility, and if I actually believe these things I have to do something about them. It is so, so cumbersome to believe anything. And it isn’t cool.’ (Donald Miller, Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality)

‘Those who aren’t following Jesus aren’t his followers. It’s that simple. Followers follow, and those who don’t follow aren’t followers. To follow Jesus means to follow Jesus into a society where justice rules, where love shapes everything. To follow Jesus means to take up his dream and work for it.’ (Scot McKnight, One Life: Jesus Calls, We Follow)

‘Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don’t really matter.’ (Francis Chan, Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God)

‘Any person who only sticks with Christianity as long as things are going his or her way, is a stranger to the cross.’
(Timothy J Keller)

'The greatness of the man's power is the measure of his surrender.' (William Booth)

'Whatever you are holding on to in this life, hold it loosely so it won't hurt when the Lord has to pry your fingers open to take it away.' (Priscilla Shirer)

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Read Mark 10:17-27.

Using all that you have discovered from today's session, create a modern-day version of the rich young ruler.

Consider the following questions to help you create a picture of this biblical character. Be creative and careful that you don't fall into easy stereotypes.

- **Who** could the rich young ruler be today?
- **What** is their name?
- **How** old are they?
- **Who** is their closest friend?
- **What** is their family background?
- **What** was their childhood like?
- **What** is their greatest achievement?
- **What** is their greatest regret?
- **What** are their political views?
- **What** is their idea of a perfect Saturday night?
- **What** must no one find out about them?
- **What** are their hopes for the future?

Share the character you have created and discuss the following question.

- **If Jesus** had an opportunity to talk to your modern-day rich young ruler, what kind of conversation would they have?

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