

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Series:** Sermon on the Mount  
**Title:** Radical Generosity  
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## WARM-UP

The movie franchise Pirates of the Caribbean tells the story of a Jack Sparrow who seems to stumble and fluke out in the adventures he goes on, ultimately finding treasure or lessons learned by the end of the movie. The treasure is always buried in a tropical location filled with perilous beauty. If you could go on a tropical treasure hunt anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

So many movies and shows surround the acquiring of treasure, money or stuff. It can be exciting, it can be hilarious or gripping as the character succeeds or learns a valuable lesson. Do you think that the constant portrayal of acquiring items, money and fame has an effect on culture?

## DISCUSSION

Matthew 6:1-4 and 6:19-24 have a clear connection around the subject of generosity. Matthew 6:1-4 discusses our heart's desire and motive around giving. Jesus goes on in 6:19-24 to talk about the ills of clinging to money and making it our heart's desire. "Wherever your treasure is, there the desire of your heart will also be." Treasure worth storing up is counter-cultural and paradoxical. It is actually by benevolence and being generous that we gain everything and store up the right kind of treasure in Heaven.

1. Jesus uses an identical format when talking about generosity, prayer and fasting. What are those four things and what can we learn from this?
2. Mike uses the word-imagery of 'playing for an audience of One.' This in a world that seems to shout "see me; notice me." What does this look like in our lives and in what ways could we re-orient our life to live for an audience of One?
3. What challenges come up in the human psyche when we are told to keep our good deeds private? Why is it so challenging for us to do so?

# DISCUSSION

4. Jesus talks about a treasure that doesn't rust, get eaten or thieved. What is he referring to and what does this type of treasure hunt look like? (Reference Luke 12:33-34; 1 Tim 6:17-18 to aid your discussion)

5. The topic of money can be such a touchy subject for many. Why do you think this is? And why do you think the world (and many Christians) has such trouble with the concept of a tithe?

6. In a North American context that is consumed by the idea of capitalism and where the idiom 'those who have the money have the power' seems to reign supreme, what steps can we take to make sure money doesn't become a god in our lives?

7. The Bible talks about tithing quite a bit. Besides the idea that others will benefit, why do you think it's important to give a 10th of your income to charity? What type of heart's posture does that show? Follow-up: Is it attainable in our current world context? (Gen 28:20-22; Deu 14:22; Mal 3:8-10; Pro 3:9; Lev 27:30).

8. Paul suggests that Christians consider proportionate giving (2 Corinthians 9 & 12). What are the implications of proportionate giving for those individuals who are wealthy by world standards? What about for those individuals who only earn a living wage?

9. Mike stated some interesting statistics from the Revenue Canada website. If 0.5% of 20% of the Canadian population produces \$1.75 billion in charitable giving, what does this say about the affluence of our nation?

- A. Only 20% of people did their taxes gave to Canadian registered charities.
- B. Of those 20%, the average income was \$65,000 a year and the average giving was \$350 (just 0.5% of their income)
- C. Canada gave \$1.75 billion to Canadian Registered Charities

## APPLICATION

Radical generosity takes intentionality and sacrifice. What can you do personally to reallocate your finances to demonstrate more radical generosity?