sundayfebruaryfirsttwothousandtwentysixad

Irrational Generosity

Overflow

What We _____:

1 Corinthians 4:2 Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful. **3** As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. **4** My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide. *(NLT)*

_____

Colossians 3:23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. *(NLT)*

_____

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money." *(NLT)*

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1 Peter 4:10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. *(NLT)*

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Ephesians 4:23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. **24** Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. *(NLT)*

_____

1 Timothy 5:8 But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers. *(NLT)*

Question:

_____ should Christ-followers be Irrationally Generous?

Acts 20:35 "And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" *(NLT)*

Is it more blessed to _____ than to _____?

_____ Our Faith

"We'll _____ the way with irrational generosity, because we _____ _____ it's more blessed to give than it is to receive."

2 Corinthians 8:1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. **2** They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. **3** For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. **4** They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. *(NLT)*

"Not enough" is not an _____;
it's a _____.

Excuse vs. Truth #1

_____ Enough vs.

_____ _____ Enough

Luke 6:35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. **36** You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. **37** "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. **38** Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." *(NLT)*

It Doesn't Make _____

God's _____

Matthew 25:14 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. **15** He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. **16** "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. **17** The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. **18** But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money. **19** "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. **20** The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.' **21** "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling

this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' **22** "The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.' **23** "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' **24** "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. **25** I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' **26** "But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, **27** why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.' **28** "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. **29** To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. **30** Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" *(NLT)*

Excuse vs. Truth #2

My _____ vs. God's _____

1 Chronicles 29:14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us! *(NLT)*

_____ **vs.** _____

Excuse vs. Truth #3

I'll give _____ vs. I'll give _____

2 Corinthians 8:11 Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. *(NLT)*

Moving My _____ **into** _____

_____

Matthew 25:37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? **39** When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' **40** "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'" *(NLT)*

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