

LifeGroup Meeting

Together In Joy
“Commitment Sunday”

Get To Know You Question:

If you won the lottery, what would be the first big purchase you buy? And why?

Let's Dig Deeper

1. Someone read **Luke 6:38 and Acts 20:35**. Spend some time and share some key words that spoke out to you while reading. What is it about those words that spoke to you?
2. Living Stones Church is a very generous church. Almost all our members and several regular guest give to the ministry here, and no doubt you are one of them. But most of us give online as reoccurring givers. So, how often do we actually think about our giving to the church and praise God that we are able to give to His kingdom purposes? Explain.
3. In **Mark 12:41**, Jesus deliberately sat down with the intention of watching what people gave to the church. Why do you think he did that?
 - Would you agree or disagree that what I do with my money is my business alone.
 - Why do you think people don't like to talk about their money?
 - How did you react to learning that Jesus spoke about money more than any other subject outside of the Kingdom of God. And that in the book of Luke alone, one out of every seven verses, money is talked about?
 - Pastor Scott mentioned that our money is our biography. Meaning that our money tells the story of us. If this is true, what does your money speak about you?
 - If Jesus is watching what you spend, what do you think he would say about your spending?
4. **Someone read Luke 6:38 and 2 Corinthians 9:6**
 - What is the one theme in these two verses?
 - The principle in these two verses is that generosity in giving results in a greater reward from God. Do we believe this principle, why or why not?
 - **Acts 6:38** is one of the few verses in the Bible that is both a promise and a command. We are commanded to give, and then promised that God will give back to us. That we can never out give God. How have we trusted God to live out this promise as we carry out this command to give?
 - How can our money be a profound way to understand the goodness of God?

- When you think about your money, do you have more joy when you give it away or when you hold on to it? Explain?

5. Someone read Acts 20:35

- Think about this, the only statement quoted from the lips of Jesus are all in the Gospels (and the few glorified verses in Revelation) with this one single exception. So after all that could have been rehearsed and recorded after the Gospels, only this, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Why do you think this quote from Jesus is the only one recorded and not any other famous quotes?
- If giving is an issue of faith and obedience, then to not give would be considered a sin. Why do you think many Christians would disagree with that statement?
- Is it okay to pick and choose which verses we will obey and which verses we won’t? Do we have that option?

6. The whole exodus experience when God was leading the people out of Egypt from slavery was all about trusting in God. Relying solely on him for food, life, and existence. It is the main reason why God provided Manna every morning, to show them that God can be trusted. Eventually they began to understand and when it was time to build a sanctuary for God so the people can worship him, God asked them to give to help build up the Sanctuary. Someone read **Exodus 36:4-7**.

- The people of Israel, when they truly understood that God can be trusted with everything in their lives, they gave so much that they were eventually told to stop giving. When was the last time we gave financially to God with the joy that these Israelites did? Why is there joy in giving to God financially?
- As we consider our pledge to give to Living Stones for the next fiscal year, would you consider giving in joy, rather than from an obligation? What would be the difference between the two?
- The more we read the bible, the more it seems that outside of people coming to faith in Jesus, what Jesus seems to love more is to give back to those who are generous givers. What can we do this year to become more generous givers?

7. Close in prayer.