

## Marks of a Christ-filled Life

**Sermon Title:** *How much am I willing to give?*

### WHAT'S THIS MESSAGE ABOUT?

Isn't it interesting how we have limited many of our commonly used words to a very narrow definition? For example, take the word "generosity." When you hear it, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Most people would answer, "sharing your money with others," but if we look up the definition it focuses on the personal character that leads to helping others: kindness, nobility of character, a generous act, etc.

Generosity is about more than money. It's a lifestyle that Jesus not only encouraged, He commanded! He called his followers to live with radical generosity. As we understand our identity, allow our relationship with God to change how we live, and engage in Christian community, we can't help but be confronted with continual opportunities to use the gifts that we have received from God to love our neighbor and our God. We were blessed in order to be a blessing!

### Questions for discussion:

- *What do you think was the main point of Matt's message?*
- *What skills, talents, gifts do you think you have that could benefit others?*
- *How have you used these skills, gifts, and talents to benefit others?*
- *What are some other ways that you might offer your gifts and time to others?*
- *Does your family get more than the leftovers of your time? How are you giving generously to them?*

### Do something about it:

**Ask** God to help you to identify your talents and where He has gifted you. Actively **Seek** to identify the everyday opportunities to be generous that God is putting in your path. As you identify those opportunities, **Knock** on the "doors" made available to you and use your gifts and talents to be the blessing God has called you to be.

### Digging deeper:

Matthew 25:14-30; Matthew 7:7-11; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 12:26; Proverbs 11:25; Romans 12:6; 13:8; Proverbs 3:24; 22:9; 1 Timothy 5:8; Proverbs 11:25; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7