

Cultivating Fruitfulness  
Bible Study  
Lesson 8: Extravagant Generosity!

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

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Book: *Cultivating Fruitfulness*

By

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We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!  
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!

Check In: Ask your small group members what they would do with an extra \$ 10 thousand dollars. After everyone answers, ask them what ministries your church could accomplish for God with an extra \$ 10 thousand.

**Extravagant Generosity**= Graciously and Responsibly placing ourselves and our resources in service to God.

The issue of extravagant generosity is related to one's understanding of what is most important. This final lesson teaches us that there is benefit to sharing in God's ministry. Most importantly, the benefit is that the work of God's Kingdom is possible through our sharing. The Bible teaches issues of sowing (sow a lot, receive a big harvest) and how farmers understand that you must give some seed away in order to reap a bountiful harvest. Remember, the budget for ministry is increased or decreased as members obediently give and sacrificially give. To do ministry that is impactful, the members of your church must understand that extravagant generosity from members and then from the church to the community allows for greater fruitfulness.

### **Key Verses: Luke 21: 1-4 The Widow's Offering**

**21** As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup>He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>“Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup>All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Extravagant Generosity goes beyond the ideas of tithes and offerings. The purpose of our study is to identify how we can cultivate fruitfulness for Christ. The church who does not utilize resources to facilitate fruitfulness is one that will be hampered in growth as well as impact. Ministry takes money. But the question of money relates to effective use of resources.

Questions to consider:

1. Should your church try to do a lot or should it focus on a few things? Why?
2. If your church focuses on a lot (more than 10 ministries) are you structured to be excellent? Do you have the adequate people and resources? What additional resources do you need?
3. If your church focuses on a few ministries (less than 10) do you have structure and resources to be excellent? What additional resources do you need?

4. What needs to happen so that your church can accomplish the ministry focus of your pastor?
5. What are the ministry focuses of your pastor? What age groups does this focus impact?
6. Is your church developing people to accomplish these ministry goals?

In Proverbs 11:24-25 we are taught that generosity blesses others and blesses the giver. Why do you think this is true?

WHAT HAS GOD GIVEN ME?

To be generous as the Widow in Luke 22, we must remind ourselves of how God has blessed us. How much of the following do you have? Treasure should always begin with obedience which is \_\_\_\_\_ %!

Time	Treasure	Talent



LET'S KEEP IT 100!

How can you use God's resources (Time, Treasure, and Talent) to meet the goals and priorities of your church? Each week has 168 hours (24 hours X 7 days). Will you give 2 hours a week to actively work in ministry for Christ? No matter what the

paycheck is that you receive, will you obediently give your tithe? No matter what your gifts and talents are, will you utilize them in your two hours of time to help someone find salvation? If not to any of these questions, why?

## Conclusion

Read Pages 83 and 84 in the book. What lessons does this scenario teach us about Extravagant Generosity?

What does this lesson help you to understand?


What does this lesson indicate you need to do?


What does extravagant generosity look like FROM you?
