



A SIX WEEK LENTEN STUDY

(Based on “Holy Habits: Gladness and Generosity”)

When we think about Lent, our minds go to giving up things as a reminder of what Jesus was willing to give up for us. Sometimes, people think of it as a penance. This study shows how we can have a generosity of spirit and joy in giving.

WEEK SIX: GIVING UNTIL IT FEELS GOOD

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Reflection: David Gilmore, one of the writers of the Holy Habits series describes his experience of giving. “As a child I had been taught that when the offering plate was passed around, I was supposed to put something in it. In fact, my grandmother would give me a nickel or dime to place in it, which reluctantly, I did. I wanted to use that money for other things. It was not until I had fallen away and then found my way back to church that I began to study the *why* behind giving. I don’t give because of what I may receive in turn. This is not a quid pro quo relationship between the Lord and me, where I’m mistaking God for a cash machine. No, my giving is done with genuine gladness, because I’m reminded in these acts of what Christ gave for me. My giving is done with deep gratitude because I know Jesus gave his all for me. There is no compunction or reticence in my giving because the Lord has provided more than I could have imagined or deserved.”

How good do you feel when called to give? Remembering the sacrificial gift of Jesus should make us feel really good and grateful and generous in our giving.

QUESTIONS:

1. What and how, do you most enjoy giving?
2. Why do you give to the church? Do you do it out of obligation or as an act of worship?
3. Do you honestly believe that God can meet all your needs: spiritual, physical, and financial? Are you able to share any of these experiences?

4. If you have given up something for Lent, what is it? Has it been beneficial to you in any way?
5. As we approach Easter, have we grasped the magnitude of what Jesus gave for us? Would you be able to explain this?
6. *“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Do you find it hard to give thanks in all circumstances?

The following¹ verse, I believe, sums up all that we have discussed over these last few weeks. *“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”* (Hebrews 13:15-16).

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED:

1. Now we have come to the end of this series, what have you learned?
2. How has it affected your attitude to giving?
3. Do you still have questions about giving?



Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart. (Matt Redman)