

# Christmas Is

**Generosity**  
**Exodus 1, 35**

- What are we trying to do at The Sanctuary Fellowship?
  - Become the people God is making us to be
  - Give Jesus to as many people as possible
- Will this show someone the love of Jesus?
- How can I be more effective when I do this?
- How can I do this more?

- In the next 25 days/end of 2017, how many lives could you touch by being generous?
- Decide in advance how you will act when given the chance to be generous
- Remember that generosity isn't a stuff issue; it's a heart issue

- Why aren't American Christians marked by a crazy generosity?
  - Often we are afraid of losing what we have
  - Proverbs 11:24–25
- Nobody gets out of here without losing something
  - What will you lose?
- Nobody gets out of here without gaining something
  - What will you gain?
- You don't own anything—does that help you be more generous?

- God is making a special, unique people for himself, and generosity is a mark of those people
  - Do people see the compassion that should flow from what we say our theology is?
  - Do we love our money and stuff as much as the world does?
  - Generosity that isn't seen and rewarded; generosity that is seen and points others toward belief/faith

## Exodus 35:4–9 (NASB)

4 Moses spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the Lord has commanded, saying, 5 'Take from among you a contribution to the Lord; whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as the Lord's contribution: gold, silver, and bronze, 6 and blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goats' hair, 7 and rams' skins dyed red, and porpoise skins, and acacia wood, 8 and oil for lighting, and spices for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense, 9 and onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

## Exodus 35:20–29 (NASB)

20 Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel departed from Moses' presence. 21 Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came and brought the Lord's contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments. 22 Then all whose hearts moved them, both men and women, came and brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and bracelets, all articles of gold; so did every man who presented an offering of gold to the Lord. 23 Every man, who had in his possession blue and purple and scarlet material and fine linen and goats' hair and rams' skins dyed red and porpoise skins, brought them.

## Exodus 35:20–29 (NASB) [continued]

24 Everyone who could make a contribution of silver and bronze brought the Lord's contribution; and every man who had in his possession acacia wood for any work of the service brought it. 25 All the skilled women spun with their hands, and brought what they had spun, in blue and purple and scarlet material and in fine linen. 26 All the women whose heart stirred with a skill spun the goats' hair. 27 The rulers brought the onyx stones and the stones for setting for the ephod and for the breastpiece; 28 and the spice and the oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense.



## Exodus 35:20–29 (NASB) [continued]

29 The Israelites, all the men and women, whose heart moved them to bring material for all the work, which the Lord had commanded through Moses to be done, brought a freewill offering to the Lord.

- Rebellion, judgment, mercy, atonement, forgiveness
- Leads to spontaneous giving and reveals several principles about Christian generosity:
  - It's not done to earn anything; it's a response to grace and mercy
  - God has entrusted us with stuff; use it for the betterment of others and God's glory
  - Cheerful giving flows from God's generosity to me (2 Corinthians 9:7)
  - Generosity is always sacrificial
- God is making a special people—he calls us to be like him in his generosity

## Ephesians 1:1–8a (NASB)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ  
Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the  
heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before  
the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and  
blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to  
adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to  
the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His  
grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

## **Ephesians 1:1–8a (NASB) [continued]**

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us.

- How do we know God is generous?
- JESUS
  - He made a choice in eternity past as to who he would save
  - Sent his son as a baby to grow up and die for us
  - He redeemed us
  - He forgave our sins
- How do we know God is generous?
- Through Jesus, he LAVISHED these things on us so we could be right with God

- How can I best be like God in my generosity?
  - Live in a way that allows me to glorify God by being as generous as possible with everything I have
- Might have to ask, "How can I live on less so I can give myself away more?"

- Christmas is the generosity of God on full display in Jesus, for the purpose of the cross, lavishly given to us
  - Generosity is a mark of God's people
  - Will we be seen as distinctly Christian because we are generous?
  - Will we be generous to one another?
  - Will we step into the needs of those around us?
  - How can others enjoy the generosity of God through me this week?
- In the next 25 days/end of 2017, how many lives could you touch by being generous?