



Sermon Discussion Questions
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Dr. E. Dale Locke (LOX); Pastor Brandon Weaver (LW); Miguel Vazquez (ESP)

Sermon Series: Treasures
Week 2: Planting Seed That Lasts

1. ICE BREAKER: We started this week's message by revisiting the farmers who stopped planting seed during the Dust Bowl. Speaking of planting, let's start here: would you say you have a green thumb, a brown thumb, or a "*plants fear me*" thumb? What's your best—or worst—plant story?
2. Read our Scripture for this week, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11:

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

*"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever."*

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

We read these verses last week. What have you been thinking about with regards to these verses or last week's message? What questions do you now have? Are you noticing anything new as you read these verses again today?

3. Matthew 6:21 says, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" In our series, we've been thinking about an idea derived from these words of Jesus: The true measure of your trust in God will never be in your heart (emotions), it will be in your wallet.

What stands out to you about the idea that trust in God shows up more clearly in our wallet than our feelings? What emotions tend to surface for you when the topic of money comes up in church—curiosity, defensiveness, anxiety, hope, something else?

4. When we encounter danger, our brains engage in the fight or flight response as a reaction to our fear. This is helpful in situations of physical danger, but we often encounter it elsewhere in our lives. The apostle John writes, "*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear*" (1 John 4:18a).

What are other places in your life where you have felt your 'fight or flight' response activated (i.e. relationships, finances, etc.)? How does love help to drive out fear in your life? What is it about money and generosity that can create fear?

We examined five ideas in response to the question, "How can I become cheerful and lighthearted about my generosity?"

5. First, we must reach peace about our money. The first step to being generous is to understand your financial situation more clearly.

Describe what it means to you to have 'peace' about your financial situation. How comfortable are you with understanding your finances right now, and what would it look like to take one step toward more clarity or peace?

6. Next, we are invited to make generosity a priority. Matthew 6:33 says, "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" This practice doesn't speak to amount, but to order, and choosing to give to God first.

React to the idea of giving to God first. What might that look like in a practical way? If this is something you engage in, share what this looks like in your own life. How have you seen Matthew 6:33 in action?

7. The next idea about generosity is considering a percentage. Reread 2 Corinthians 9:7, which speaks to the idea of deciding in your heart what to give. We believe Scripture teaches about the tithe as a tenth (*Matt 23:23*), which we aim to grow towards.

What stood out to you about the idea of *pre-deciding* generosity rather than making emotional or moment-by-moment decisions? Have you ever heard the idea of growing a percentage in your giving?

8. 2 Corinthians 8:7 says, "*But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*" This idea speaks to the progressive nature of generosity.

Paul talks about *excelling* in the grace of giving. What do you think growth or progress in generosity could look like over time—not all at once, but gradually? Share what you think extravagant generosity looks like.

9. Finally, we see a promise given in relation to generosity. Reread 2 Corinthians 9:8. The promise isn't that God gives us everything we want, but that He supplies what we need so we can be generous.

How does the idea that God supplies what we need so we can "abound in every good work" shape the way you think about trust and provision? Share any stories about God providing for you across the course of your life.

10. PRACTICE: Have someone in your group put on prayerful music.

The apostle Paul writes, "*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God*" (2 Cor 9:11).

First - read these words slowly.

Next - read them again and write down a word or phrase that sticks out to you.

Then - read it again and ask God why He highlighted those words.

Finally - pray those words back to God.

When everyone has finished, share with your group what you feel God showed you or challenged you with!