



Sermon Discussion Questions  
02-01-26

Dr. E. Dale Locke (LOX+LW Broadcast); Pastor Mitch Nazario (ESP)

Sermon Series: Treasures  
Week 1: Farming 101

1. ICE BREAKER: What's something you've held onto *way too long* because you thought, "I might need this someday"?
2. Read our Scripture for this week, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11:

*<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And 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. <sup>9</sup>As it is written:*

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

*<sup>10</sup>Now 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. <sup>11</sup>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.*

What observations do you have as you read this Scripture? What words stand out to you? What thoughts or questions do you have?

3. Pastor Dale began the message by sharing about the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. In the first six years of that decade, over eight tons of soil per acre was lost every single year, adding up to a total of over 850 million tons.

What stood out to you from the Dust Bowl story, especially the idea that people stopped planting seed in order to protect what they had? Can you think of a time when fear caused you to stop doing something that had previously brought growth or life?

4. Biblically speaking, the single-greatest indicator of your genuine trust in God will not be your heart...it will be your wallet. This is why Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"

Do you agree or disagree that trust in God is reflected in your wallet? Why? How have you seen Jesus' words to be true of your life? What are places, other than God's Kingdom, where people tend to place their 'treasure'?

5. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul says that God loves a cheerful giver. However, sometimes it seems that when it comes to giving of our financial resources, we are more *fearful* than we are *cheerful*.

What is challenging to you about the idea of being a cheerful giver? What can make people fearful about giving?

6. Reread 2 Corinthians 9:6. In this verse, we see that the law of the harvest (sowing and reaping) applies to your finances. While the world tells us we need to look out for ourselves, Jesus teaches us to look out for others, and that God will love out for us.

How does viewing generosity through the lens of "sowing and reaping" challenge or reshape how you've thought about money and faith? Why do you think trusting God financially can feel more intimidating than trusting Him in other areas of life?

7. Next, read 2 Corinthians 9:9. Here, we see Biblical generosity creates a partnership with God's purposes. Many people are looking for meaning and purpose, and when we partner with God for what is important to Him, meaning and purpose grow in our own lives as well.

How does the idea of generosity as *partnership with God's purposes* (caring for the poor, advancing the mission of Jesus) give meaning beyond simply "giving money"? Have you ever experienced a deeper sense of purpose when you invested your time, energy, or resources into something bigger than yourself?

8. Finally, reread 2 Corinthians 9:11. Paul's words remind us, God will supply what you need. It is difficult to place our faith completely outside of ourselves, but this is the invitation that is extended to us in the Christian journey.

What does it look like, practically, to trust that God will supply what you need—not necessarily what you want? Where might God be inviting you to take a small step of trust rather than a giant leap?

9. PRACTICE: This conversation can sometimes raise fear and uncertainty, or can cause us to feel shame, pressure, or comparison.

For today's practice, have someone put on some prayerful music, and simply spend a few minutes praying about this topic.

Ask God to show you if there are any fears He is asking you to surrender, or any shame that He's asking you to lay down.

Or, ask Him to show you where He is asking you to lean in!

Share with your group, as far as you are comfortable.