

GIVING TODAY +++

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Well, hands up at all campuses if you think this is true about you. How many of you would say that you are a better-than-average driver? A better-than-average driver, hands up all campuses. All right, if you're campusing like this room right here at Millard, probably 70% of the people said that. They've done this study, and they found that 73% of people say they're a better-than-average driver. Men, it's 80%. So statistically, that's untrue. You know that, right? 80% of us can't be better-than-average drivers.

They've also done a study, and they've asked, what percentage of people do you think are better-than-average drivers? And we say 29%. It's kind of funny sometimes that we have blind spots, even about driving, if you will. Insurance companies, do you know this, actually say, this is good for the ladies out there, that they rate women as safer drivers than men. Yeah, all the ladies say, yeah, woo.

But today I want to talk to you, if we have blind spots about our driving, we probably got some blind spots in other areas too. I want to talk to you today about what I'm calling the great American blind spot. I want to start with a parable though. I heard it from Pastor John Tyson about a guru in India, and his disciple, he'd spent a lot of time with his disciple and the disciple was doing very well, progressing spiritually.

And so the guru decided it's time for me to leave. He's got it. He's good. He's going to do great. And so he left the disciple, and the disciple lived very simply. He lived in a mud hut every day, would beg for his food, and he would go on and on this way. And after his morning devotions, he would wash his loincloth, and he would hang the loincloth out to dry.

After a couple of weeks, he noticed that the rats began to eat holes through his loincloth. And so he went back into the village and begged, can I have another loincloth? And the same thing happened. And so he said, this is not going to work. And so instead, what I need to do is I need to get a cat in order to take care of the rats.

And so he got a cat in order to take care of the rats so he could keep his loincloth. But every day now he'd have to go to the village and beg for food, and also I need some milk for my cat. And that got a lot to ask for, and so he said, I can't keep going like this, and so I need to get a cow so that the cat has milk. And so he begged for a cow.

He got a cow, and now he had a cow to take care of the cat, take care of the rats, take care of the loincloth. And then he's like, well, now I got to beg for fodder for food for the cow, and that's not sustainable. So what if I just build crops? And so he began to till the ground, and he started to realize, well, that's kind of hard work.

I need to get some workers here in the field to help with this, and so he got some workers in the field to help him with that, and he's like, I need someone else to help me manage this, and so I need to

marry somebody. He got a partner in crime to do that, and pretty soon, a couple of years passed, and the guru came back to check in on his disciple.

And where there was once a simple mud hut, there was now a palace surrounded by a state and crops and workers, many workers laboring in the fields, and he asked the disciple, disciple, what is the meaning of all this? And the disciple replied, you wouldn't believe it, but there was no other way I could take care of my loincloth than this.

And you might be thinking, well, that would never happen to me, or maybe even you're like, I know where there's parables going, just get to it. But here's the challenge. This story is not just about an ancient disciple. I would argue that it's the life many of us have chosen to live. I believe the great American blind spot that I'm naming today, I'm calling out, I'm claiming, is greed, that you and I, we are far more greedy than we like to admit, which means then that we're also, as a result, far less generous than we believe or profess ourselves to be.

Studies have shown that American Christians, about 40% of them say that they tithe, they give 10% regularly to the church. That's what a tithe is. But other surveys have shown on the bottom end, it's closer to 3%, the higher end, closer to 15%, wide range, but 3 to 15% of people that actually tithe, as opposed to 40% that say they do.

For a good number of people listening today, the thing that holds us back from really truly being generous, it's not because a lack of resources, the thing that holds you and I back from being generous is you have a blind spot. You're greedy. And I want to talk about that today.

Today what I'm challenging you to do, this week what I'm challenging you to do is to trade grasping for more, what I call greed for gratitude. Let's trade greed for gratitude.

Good news church, we've made it to the sixth and final week of Giving Challenge. Give yourselves a round of applause. Yeah, it's not the easiest sermon series to go through, to sit through, to be challenged by. And so I thought on the last week, I would tell you all, you're really greedy. That's a good way to finish. That's what I'm going to do.

We've covered a lot of ground the last five weeks. I'm so grateful to our team here at King of Kings, our production team. If you've missed anything, you can check out our videos on our website, in our app, or on our YouTube channel to kind of catch up with where we've been.

But in the final crack at it, I do, I want to, I want to spend some time talking about greed. I want to trace it actually all the way back from the beginning. Look at it in the Old Testament, look at it in the New Testament, especially in the words of Jesus, look at it in history, and then trace it all the way back to modern America to see how greed has sneaked up in so many of our lives that it's become a blind spot.

That many of us don't even see it. And today, rather than sloughing it off or acting like it's no big deal, or maybe even celebrating it as an ideal to aspire to, I actually want to sit in the heaviness and weight of this sin for quite some time.

Because I don't think you've ever sat in it like you're going to sit in it today. And I want to do that for a significant amount of time, and I want you to feel uncomfortable. That's intentional. Because I want you to really wrestle with, am I a greedy person?

And at the end of tracing all of this through the Bible, through history, through today, you might feel exhausted and like there's no hope. And just when you feel like, please, can you give me some relief? I will. And His name will be Jesus, and it will be His forgiveness, and I will show you a better way. So let's do it. Sound fun?

All right, well, just go back to the very, very, very beginning. Greed shows up in a fruit that is eaten by two people that shouldn't have eaten it, but they wanted it. You can track greed. Honestly, it's in the undertones and even overtones of the half of the Ten Commandments. You shall not covet. You shall not steal. You should not have other idols. All of these have greed underneath them.

So many stories in the Old Testament popping up about greed. There's many times the Israelites would capture a city. God would tell them, don't take those things, and they would take those things. Greed shows up.

But there's a story from a small prophet book called Haggai that I think actually resonates with what a lot of us are experiencing today. And Haggai, it was 538 BC. The king's name was Cyrus, and he actually amazingly allowed 50,000 Jews to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild its city, particularly the Temple of God, which was in ruins.

And the group that went back started making fast work, building the foundation of the temple. But then all of a sudden there was great opposition and work stalled. Work stalled for 16 years.

And in those 16 years, the Israelites, well, they busied themselves building their own houses. And that's where we pop into the story. Chapter 1, verse 3. Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses while this house remains a ruin? Haggai is saying, hey guys. Thank you. There's something wrong here. You are living comfortably while God's house isn't even fully built. Something about that isn't right.

Then he goes deeper. This passage is so important. Give careful thought to your ways. Think how much would change if we just carefully thought about stuff. He says, you have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes in it.

Some of you spouses are like, that's the verse I've been looking for. We make all this money. I don't know where it goes. Just put it in a purse and just holes everywhere. But how much of what Haggai is saying for his people are true for us today? I mean, we got plants, we got clothes, we got food, we got drink, we got wages. And yet there's still this emptiness that something is not right. And we're still feeling like we're empty and like there's something more and it's never enough.

And then he says again, verse seven, give careful thoughts to your ways. Instead of the impulse buy, instead of getting pulled by this world and just doing what everybody else is doing, instead of getting distracted and enamored by what others are happening on social media. What if you just carefully

thought about what you did and how you spent your money? What if you budgeted, by the way, that'd be a good thing to do. Then you might find the purse has less holes in it.

And then he says, go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house. So that I may take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord. You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why declares the Lord Almighty? Because of my house, which remains a ruin while each of you is busy with your own house.

You see, they had a very specific call, each of them to build the temple, the house of God. We don't have that specific of a call, but, but how many times in this series have we talked about? Jesus said, talked more than anything else about the kingdom of God, the kingdom of God, the kingdom of God.

And all throughout, I've been trying to challenge you that, that are you spending more time building your own kingdom, your own house, your own name, your own platform, or actually building the kingdom of God, which is coming in as eternal.

And we've used this analogy over and over and over. Why in the world would we build our kingdom here? And relative to eternity, earth is like a two night hotel stop on our way home. And yet we're spending so much about this right here and right now and feeling like it's never enough. And God's like, how much more do you need?

If you move into the new Testament and you look at the words, specifically the red letters of the words of Jesus, he talked about money a lot. There's about 40 parables and probably 16 ish that money is mentioned.

And I think because of that, give careful thought to this, this might it be. I think you could make a pretty good biblical case that the sin that Jesus talked about most referenced, or at least had undertones to more than any other is the sin of greed.

That's wild to think about. It's all over his words. I'll show you a couple of places.

Luke 12 verse 15 says, watch out, be on your guard against all kinds of what? All kinds of greed. Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.

In this case, he didn't say it about murder or adultery or lying, though you shouldn't do those things either, by the way, but he does say, watch out for greed. Why? Because greed is sneaky and you won't even know it hit you before it got you. You rarely notice it in the mirror or think about it for yourself.

And yet it shows up when you grasp for a little bit more and a little bit more and a little bit more and a little bit more.

Matthew 6, 24, we looked at this verse last week. No one can serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and what? God and money. Funny, Jesus doesn't set up sex or lust as God's rival. It doesn't set up anger or pride as God's rival. In this case, he sets up money, greed as the rival of God, because greed doesn't just tempt you.

No, it wants to actually own you. That's why he calls it a master, because it has the power to own you.

And so for some of you, the question that you need to ask is not, do you have money? But rather, does money have you? Does money have you?

We've looked at a couple of other parables of money having the rich man that decided to just build bigger barns. And Jesus said, that's a foolish, stupid way to live.

We looked at a story of a wealthy young ruler last week that greed was what's blocking him from truly giving his life over to Jesus.

And he walked away sad when Jesus asked him to get rid of his biggest idol.

Do you have money or does money have you?

And that's why this isn't a side issue and why we can't just slough it off or never talk about it, because greed is not a side issue.

Greed is a heart issue. And all of us so easy to get caught up in it without even knowing we got there.

And the reason Jesus talked about it so much is because he knew that the people that he was talking to then needed to hear about it.

And he knew that almost 2000 years later, a whole bunch of us in the state of Nebraska would need his wisdom on finances, money, generosity, greed.

He also lived in a world at that time that was dominated by the Roman empire, which was greed was the very air that they were breathing.

The Caesars of those days, it was always bigger equals better. And every Caesar tried to outdo the previous Caesar, building larger temples and larger kingdoms for themselves.

So Jesus comes against it in a really harsh way often because he knows it's dangerous if it's unchecked.

And we've even seen through history that societies and empires that were really strong, when greed goes unchecked, it is their demise.

Societies have crumbled.

People have lost their souls to greed.

Gosh, even the church has lost its way with greed.

It's dangerous.

And in those days, they knew it was dangerous.

And that's why there were monks and there were nuns that would form lists of things that are like stuff to watch out for that by the sixth century, Pope Gregory the Great organized this list into something I'm sure you've heard of called the seven deadly sins.

Want to know what's number two on that list? Greed. It's one of the most common destructive temptations throughout history.

Greed spills into other evils.

I've used that verse, the love of money is a root, root, root of all kinds of evil. It leads to other evils.

A couple of years ago, I had a chance to have a racial justice advocate, Jamar Tisby, on my podcast.

And I just asked him like, where did racism come from? Because it feels like such an odd jump to get to that.

And he said greed.

And I never thought about it before.

But the more I thought about it and listened to him, I really thought that his answer was justified, that all of these injustices, horrific injustices like slavery and oppression and injustice and racism, greed is the soil in which that took root because it was people that wanted more power, more wealth, more, more, more.

And then Jamar said the phrase, the root determines the fruit.

Greed is a root.

The love of money is a root that produces so many other evils that if it is unchecked, it will lead to other horrific things that we'll be looking back and be like, how did we ever get there? Greed, greed that went unchecked.

So how are you doing with this?

One of the clearest ways that I think greed disguises itself is this thing known as materialism.

The love of stuff.

And there may be some people that are, you know, bold materialists, you know, and they'll say stuff like, well, the people that said money can't buy happiness, they must never have had any.

But I think most of us aren't like that.

I think most of us are more subconscious materialists, forming little idols in our heart and chasing after things that we want in this world that even when we get them, it might have a little heart flutter or a little dopamine hit.

And then we realize, oh, I got to get something else now.

And there might be that thing for you.

Maybe it is your new truck or a new pair of sneakers or a new kind of purse that will eventually have holes in it, by the way, that for the time being has your heart.

And because it's not meant to keep your heart, it won't keep your heart.

And so you'll just have to move to something else.

Materialism is sneaky.

It shows up.

I'll show you a few ways that if you zoom out, like maybe it's easy to see.

That's kind of what I want to do today is make this blind thing hopefully a little easier for you to spot.

Take the season we're coming into, Americans and their Christmas spending.

According to the National Retail Federation, the average American spends \$875 per person on Christmas.

You household that out to 3.1 people, that means, which is the average, \$2,756 for the average household on Christmas.

And if you look at what people give annually to charity or to church, the number is \$2,600, which means that statistically people spend more in a single month giving gifts to one another than they do the entire year giving to those in need.

Interesting.

I'm not against buying Christmas gifts, but the average 10 year old owns 238 toys and they play with 12 of them on average.

And if you are buying Christmas gifts, they just play with the box.

So don't even get anything, just save some money there for you.

In 1930, the average American woman owned nine outfits.

Today the average is over 90.

And not just women, but men, many of these men and women that what they will do before they go out on a nice date or in a nice meeting is they will go into what they're called walk in closets.

You've heard of these things, I'm sure.

And they'll touch every piece of clothing.

And even though they've got 90 different choices to choose from, they'll come out and they'll say, I've got what? I've got, yeah.

So you are those greedy materialists and you've heard of this or no, you just watched a movie about a couple of rich people, right?

Yeah, I bet.

I bet.

The more we have, the more we want.

Kind of a silly illustration about this is that there was a study done of how much would a person pay for extra leg room on an airplane?

The average was \$12, I'll pay \$12.

But then the survey asked, if you had the extra leg room, how much would someone have to pay you to give it up?

The average went to \$39, which is just a really silly, stupid way to tell you that once you have something, you do not want to give it up.

You are three times more likely to want to hold on to it because that's yours.

It's called the endowment effect if you want to look it up in psychology.

More we have, the more we feel like we need, the more we feel like we want.

Mentioned last week, a great friend of mine that works with high net worth individuals that he says half the people that are in the \$5 to \$10 million net worth range are still scarcity mindset, needing, wanting more, more, more, more.

The more you have, the more you want, and the more you have, the more you tighten your grip on it.

The wealthiest man to ever live, Solomon once said it this way, whoever loves money never has enough.

Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

And we don't realize this, but our hands start to look a lot more grippy.

And we end up serving our stuff more than we serve our Savior.

I think it'd be a helpful exercise this week for you to time inventory, how much time you spend in your relationship with God versus how much time you spend time, energy and stress maintaining what you own.

The insurance, the upkeep, the maintenance, the cleaning, the upgrades, all to protect what? A loincloth?

We just want to own more stuff, but in the end, doesn't our stuff own us?

There's a better way to live.

Let me share three steps for you.

Step number one is repentance.

Everybody say repentance.

You know, in preparing for this series, I listened to so many sermons, so many podcasts, read so many books, and there was at least four times where I heard respected ministers that had been in it for decades say the exact same thing.

And it was true for me too.

And so here's what they said.

They said in all my years of ministry, and especially in countless counseling sessions, I've had people confess every kind of sin, some heartbreaking, some shocking, but not once has anyone ever confessed to me the sin of greed.

Not once.

I've been in at 15, at another five for seminary, 20 years.

I've not once heard anybody to say, Zach, I need to talk to you.

I think I'm greedy.

We just don't treat it that big of a deal.

So I am not, and God is not for condemnation.

That's not who he is.

There are many times though, when God is for conviction.

When it's time you take a hard look into the mirror and into your own life and into your bank accounts and into your possessions and into your home and into the kingdom that you're building in this world, and you ought to say, you know what?

I'm not exempt from this either.

And maybe my natural bend should be, I am greedier than I think I am.

And if you've made it this far with me, congratulations.

And maybe you're like, can we please get to the good news?

Yeah, let's do it.

But I wanted you to sit into the heaviness of it because you just don't treat it.

I don't treat it.

We don't treat it like it's that big of a deal.

And it is.

This is really twofold.

It's number one, confessing and admitting, I need help.

And then it's turning.

So I want to confess now with you, and then I want to show you two ways to turn.

And so I'd love for you right now to actually just close your eyes, all campuses, close your eyes and for half a minute, whatever's brought you conviction today, I'd like for you to confess that to God.

Bring that sin to him.

What are the areas of your life where greed has shown up?

Keep your eyes closed.

And the most beautiful part, never miss this about when we confess to God, it's not the words that you bring or the heart that you bring with it.

The most beautiful part is that every time you confess your sins, God has already postured himself in a way to hear what you've said and is ready and able and willing to say these words to you.

Will you open your eyes and look at me and hear the good news of Jesus that you friend have been forgiven in the name of the father, by the blood of the son and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

You are not what you once were.

You are brand new.

And that person of greed that you've just let go of is meant to stay in the past.

As you become a person of generosity, as you turn, and I'm gonna give you two turns, one's inner, one's outer, two turns, one's inner, one's outer.

First step repentance.

Step two is gratitude.

Everybody say gratitude.

Gratitude is a practice that is so good for us.

It's good for our faith, but also just our overall wellbeing.

Gratitude changes the posture that we have in this world.

Studies show that if you do a gratitude journal, if you write three things that you're grateful for every day, that in 10 weeks, I don't know how they measure this, but you're going to be 20% happier.

Doesn't that sound nice?

Some of you, some of your in-laws are like, please, will you do that?

I'd love for you to be 20% happier than where you are right now, because you're coming in at a three out of 10.

It'd be cool if you moved to a five out of 10, you know?

Not only will you be happier, but those who practice gratitude, listen to this, are more optimistic in life, exercise more, have fewer doctor visits, and even sleep better.

Scientists have found this amazing truth that it's impossible in the same brain at the same time to have anxious thoughts coexist with gratitude thoughts.

Are you struggling with anxiety?

How about you push some gratitude in because that'll push the anxiety out.

And that's not just science.

It's science catching up to scripture, because do you know that you were made for this?

This is God's will.

He designed you this way.

That's what it says in 1 Thessalonians 5 verse 18, that we can give thanks, we can be grateful in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

It just plain works.

Dina Newsome, who is our associate campus director here at Millard, she also handles and champions a lot of the events campus-wide for all of our campuses.

She was going through a really rough season 19 years ago at this very month.

And she decided not to keep playing defense, but to play offense.

And she started something that she calls, I'm sure you've heard it before, Thanksvember.

Some of you are like, I do no shave November, like, okay, how about Thanksvember, which every day she decided that I'm going to be grateful for something.

And now she does it on our social media every day where there's something that she's grateful for that she lists in the month of November.

She says, if other people want to look in and see it, that's fine.

But honestly, Zach, I do it for myself.

She was telling our staff the other day of how what once used to be the worst month of the year for her in a hard season is now her favorite month of the year.

Some of you might do that.

It's only November 9th, Thanksgiving's in a couple of weeks from now, and maybe that's your big takeaway is I'm going to wake up every day and I'm going to be grateful.

Maybe you'll post it on social media.

Maybe that's not for you.

Maybe you'll write it in a book.

Maybe that's what you want to do.

Did you know that our app at King of Kings, we have three daily practices and gratitude is one of them.

You can practice right inside the app.

I don't know how, I don't care really how you do it, but it's so important that we are grateful for all that God blesses us with.

It just changes our posture.

In fact, let's just do that right now.

Close your eyes and you'll just spend a half a minute just thinking about, here's the question.

What are you grateful for today?

What are you grateful for?

You can open your eyes, then just a little bit of time, kind of recenter, fill you with peace.

Maybe hope if God puts someone on your heart, you're grateful for, maybe today's a great day to reach out and say, Hey, I'm grateful for you.

If God put an opportunity on your heart that you're grateful for, then awesome.

Pour more into that.

If God put a thing that you're grateful for, cool, but now hopefully that thing's in its proper place.

So we're going to turn, we're going to, we're going to, we're going to practice gratitude.

And then number three, the outer thing, give today.

We're going to, we're going to give today.

Everybody say give today, give today.

Because once you're grateful, gratitude, healthier perspective, it opens your mind and not only your mind, but your heart and your hands to be the generous people that God has called you to be.

And as you're grateful, you're also remembering as you're grateful for all these ways in which God's providing for you, you're doubling down on that.

And you're remembering that God is my provider.

He's my Jehovah Jireh.

He gives me more than enough.

And if he, if he closed the birds of the air and takes care of the grass, the fields, how much more will he take care of me?

Because he loves me that much more.

And so the more I pour these thoughts into me, the more, you know what I can do?

I can be generous because I know God's going to take care of me.

And the stuff that he's given to me isn't meant for me to tightly grip and just hold and hoard and collect and grab more, but actually to give away to the rest of the world as a token and as a sign that Jesus Christ is inside of me.

And I'm grateful for what he's given to me.

And I want to give you a little bit of what God has given to me.

At least in my head, that's how I planned it.

And as you're grateful, if ever the thought of the enemy that creeps into you is like, well, that works for others, but I don't know about you.

I want you to see and remember that you have a God that will not and has not ever held out anything that you need.

He is a God that is willing to give everything, even at great cost.

The words of second Corinthians eight, nine remind us of this truth.

If you ever need, will God hold out on me?

Will he not provide enough for me?

Just turn to this verse that though he, Jesus was rich and he was, he was seated in high in heavens.

Everything was going really well for Jesus yet for your sake, he became poor.

He did.

He became a man and not just a man, but a servant, not just a servant, a servant, obedient to death and not just any type of death, but death by crucifixion.

So that through his poverty, through his death and through his coming resurrection that you friend might become rich.

You think God's ever going to hold out on you?

Are you kidding me?

What God do you serve?

What God do you know?

That must not be the God that I know that'll come and get me wherever I've been and rescue me and give me another chance and he'll come down and he'll, he'll get down into the roots, the roots, the roots of all evil.

He'll, he'll meet me there and he will, he will snatch that right out of me and give me a better opportunity.

I need more of that.

You need more of that.

And so the challenge this week is give today, wake up with a posture every day of how can I be generous?

What can I do in some way, shape or form to, to just show the love of God to a world that so desperately needs it?

I wrote a story concluding the book in here that I want to finish the series with that just as a reminder of how something small sometimes can help save lives.

A young woman was at the end of her rope and she was driving through a fast food restaurant and she said, God, if you're real, you need to show me a sign right now.

She was at her favorite fast food restaurant going through the drive through and this was going to be her last meal and in an hour she would take her life.

The car ahead of her happened to be a pastor that that morning launched a challenge in his church, called it an acts of kindness challenge, and he gave out business size cards to his church and said this week, just be kind and be generous.

And as you're doing that, just throw these cards around.

And he gave examples of what it could look like.

You can, you can, you know, pay for someone's gas.

You can mow somebody's yard.

You can leave a big tip for your server.

You can go through a fast food and pay for the meal behind you.

And so this pastor did what most pastors do after Sunday, rewarded himself with a fast food meal.

But also I'm going to model this for my church.

And he said, I want to take care of the car behind me.

And he gave the cashier a card and instructions, let her know that it's paid for.

But also will you hand this card to her?

He had no idea how much this woman needed, what the cashier was about to deliver.

She pulled up and the cashier said, it's been paid for.

And the man wanted you to have this card.

And on the card, it said something extra to show you that God loves you.

It was enough for this woman to see that sign from God and turn her life around.

And she would go to that church and she would meet the pastor.

And I just can't imagine the joy in that conversation of her and of him.

Oh man, generosity really does bring the world together.

And it reflects the heart of Jesus.

You can do big things, medium things, small things, but every generous act you do is a reflection of the God that's done so much for you.

And it'll meet you in little ways and medium ways and big ways to keep reminding you how much he loves you.

And so that's the challenge.

You'll hear a little bit more about that in just a couple of moments of what you can do.

We've got business size cards for you.

You can do this.

You can be generous.

You can be kind.

You can do it every day.

And I hope you do.

I know 40 days talking about money and generosity and greed is not the easiest and so well done, you made it.

But I hope that this 40 days wasn't just convicting, but challenging and changing.

I hope that you change.

I hope that you change out of the scarcity mindset.

I don't know if I have enough to remember you serve a God of abundance and he's going to take good care of you.

I hope you flip from how much do I have to give to how much do I really need to keep knowing that eternity is my home.

I hope that you practice generosity habits and that you fuel God's vision everywhere you see God's vision needing fueling.

I hope that you wake up every day knowing that there's something you can do today to be generous.

And I do hope that when our savior returns and heaven is real and eternity is here, that he doesn't look around at a vast estate and a pretty impressive earthly kingdom and say, what happened?

And we said, well, Jesus, you wouldn't believe it, but I had to do all of this to take care of a loincloth.

But rather we hear the words, well done, good and faithful servant.

I entrusted you with a little and now you get a lot.

Jesus, thank you for meeting us here once again.

Thank you for being the generous God that you are.

May we, Lord Jesus, practice that generosity in the ways you put upon our hearts, small, medium and big.

We want to obey you and follow you.

Thank you for who you are.

We love you, Jesus.

And it's in your name all campuses say, amen.

