



GIVING STORIES

IN LUKE'S GOSPEL

INTRO: Luke's Gospel is dedicated to an unknown person called Theophilus, meaning "lover of God." Some scholars believe Luke was writing to a single person while others think Theophilus is a symbolic name for any reader looking to learn more about Jesus' life. Either way, Luke makes one thing clear: a true lover of God rejects a life of selfishness and embraces a life of abundant generosity. Why? Because this is the only sensible way to respond to the love of God incarnate.

1. "Once people get to know Jesus, they become more selfless than ever before." Is this true of the Christians you know? Why or why not?

READ Luke 16:19–31

1. What images and words stand out to you? Why?
2. Read Luke 6:20–25. How does this passage parallel Luke 16?
3. Why does Jesus care so much about wealth?

SERMON QUESTIONS:

1. What does a generous life look like? Name specific actions and characteristics.
2. When have you been called to be generous and you felt uncomfortable?
3. What effect does generosity have on the health of a community?
4. Does generosity always require you to give something up? Explain.

OUTRO: Luke's Gospel shows extra concern for those who experience injustice, oppression and poverty on a regular basis and compels us to ask if our concern for others is genuine. If we truly love God, then we can't help but love others no matter what. Luke would certainly agree with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

PRAY TOGETHER.

(Pray for God to reveal any selfish attitudes or prejudices you may have.)