



The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 11.12.2023 Pulpit Curriculum

Biblical Generosity: Has my worship through giving been driven by grace?

- Am I giving in accordance to what I see modeled in God's Word (Christ's generosity, New Testament teachings, etc.)?
- Am I giving in accordance to what I've decided in my heart? Am I a cheerful giver?

The Redeemed Life vs. The Squandered Life

Main Passage: 1 Samuel 30-31

3 Characteristics of a Redeemed Life (David): David did not live a perfect life, but he turned to the Lord over and over again.

1. **A redeemed life depends on God regularly:** In the midst of a painful situation (everything and everyone taken, his men turning on him), David said, let's turn to the Lord for guidance. In contrast, Saul gave up on waiting for God and instead turned to the Witch of Endor in his most desperate hour.
 - A. What trial, affliction, or difficulty are you currently facing? How can you turn to the Lord through this circumstance? _____

 - B. Have you ever been tempted to turn elsewhere in trying times? What does it look like when you do so? _____
2. **A redeemed life waits for God to finish the story:** After returning home to find the town raided, all of the people were "bitter in soul." They concluded all was lost—God must have been wrong. They turned to personal vengeance.
 - C. Has it ever felt like God must have made a mistake/turned away? If there was a time you were "bitter in soul," how did you react? _____

3. **A redeemed life lives and gives by the measure of grace:** The world treats each other by earned merit. The church has merit in Christ. "We love because He first loved us." We are moved by His generosity. That's how David lived. When his men did not want to share the spoils, he instead chose to share. He was aware that what he possessed was God's, not his own. Whatever we have, we receive as a gift from the Lord's hand. And we have everything we need to live a life pleasing to God (2 Peter 1:3). Let us multiply our gifts and graces. As we give, God enlarges the harvest of our righteousness (2 Corinthians 9:6-15).



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D. Do you struggle to be generous with your resources? What do you think is at the root of this struggle (pride, lack of faith/trust)? _____

E. Was there ever a time you were on the receiving end of generosity? How does that experience shape your willingness to give to others? _____

How to Suffer with Hope: David was grieving, but he grieved with hope. 1 Corinthians 1:3-7 encourages us to comfort one another in our sufferings as we receive comfort from our heavenly Father and Jesus, who relates to us in our sufferings.

1. **Look up to trust God:** (v. 3) Look up and acknowledge the power of the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, who gives generously.

2. **Look beyond to comfort others:** (v.4-6) Share the resources God has given you.

F. What are some resources God has given you? How can you share them in your community/church family? _____

3. **Look at Christ for His supply:** (v. 5) Jesus can relate! He offers us His comfort.

G. What brings you comfort when suffering? Do you find it in Scripture, worship, prayer, fellowship? _____

4. **Look around for partners in hope:** (v. 7) Our brothers and sisters in Christ provide fellowship, oneness, communion. Don't isolate yourself in your troubles!

H. Are you tempted to isolate when suffering? Why is this harmful? _____

3 Characteristics of a Squandered Life (Saul): Saul repeatedly took matters into his own hands and defied the Lord.

1. **A squandered life refuses to hear God's Word:** (1 Samuel 15:22-23) Rebellion is based on presumption and pride. Rejecting the Word of God ("I know better") is a refusal to hear the Lord's voice. In contrast, the redeemed life is one of hearing, accepting, surrendering to, and obeying God.

2. **A squandered life leans on the spear:** Saul used his spear multiple times for his own will. The spear is an emblem of our own ability, trusting in our own power.

3. **A squandered life ends in a pitiable state:** The words flee, fallen, struck down, die, nailed to the wall are all images of the pain and destruction that Saul's life ended with. Saul's end was an end of one who did not love God.

I. What will your end look like? _____

J. Are you living like someone who is redeemed? _____