

MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL – Sunday 12th February 2017

4: THE POTENTIAL OF GRACE GIVING 2 Timothy 2.1

Why is it that only a small percentage of people reach their full potential asks **Miles Munroe**. He then offers some reflection on what is potential: '*Potential is...dormant ability...reserved power...untapped strength...unused success...hidden talents...capped capability. All you can be but have not yet become...potential is unexposed ability and latent power.*'

The comments indicate therefore 'what you have successfully accomplished is no longer potential. Potential demands that you never settle for what you have accomplished.'

2 Tim 2.1 **You then my Son be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**

Alan on Sunday used this text to focus on facing the challenge of the potential of grace giving.

If there is one study that the small groups would be tempted to omit, it would be this one. It is easy to feel that what I do with my income is up to me and not up for discussion! We find though that the Bible says a great deal about how we deal with money.

The Archbishop, **Justin Welby** has written a Lent book (that I have not read) with the title **Dethroning Mammon**. It reflects on the impact of our own attitudes, and of the pressures that surround us, on how we handle the power of money, called Mammon in this book. Who will be on the throne of our lives? Who will direct our actions and attitudes? Is it Jesus Christ, who brings truth, hope and freedom or is it Mammon.

1. OUR GOD IS AMAZINGLY GENEROUS

Think about some of the ways in which we are recipients of the immense generosity of God.

How do you understand God's generosity?

In what does God's generosity infuse our worship and praying? Linking up with a previous study, what about Eph 4.8?

What can be done to increase the sense of wonder in God's generosity?

2. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO BE AMAZINGLY GENEROUS

Jesus was in the home of Simon the Pharisee when a local prostitute broke into the gathering of well-respected people. She poured out tears and perfume upon Jesus' feet.

What was this emotional outburst all about? You can read about it in **Luke 7.36ff**.

The woman had encountered God's extraordinary generosity.

There is the call to *act like your Father in heaven*' (**Matt 5.48**). We are to be a generous and open-handed people. Acts 2.42-47 reflects on the spontaneous nature of the early church.

Another story in **Luke 21.1-4**, is regarding the widow in the Temple and how the two small coins caused joy in heaven.

In what way was this widow's giving far more than a couple of coins?

Alan in his message continued with some principles of generosity:

When we honour God, God honours us

Prov 14.31(ESV) *Whoever is generous to the needy honours God.*

Jesus said **Acts 20.35** *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

God blesses us in order that we might be a blessing. (Other verses Prov 11.24; Ps 112.9; Matt 6.21)

There is to be joy in giving.

TITHES (regular giving) 1 Cor 16.2 **and OFFERINGS** (special extra offerings)

What did you think of the illustration of the **THREE BUCKETS?**

How practical do you think the scriptures are regarding money management for the 21st Century?



THE SPENDING BUCKET



THE SAVING BUCKET



THE GIVING BUCKET

2 Cor 8 & 9 are great chapters regarding the grace of giving.

How can we excel (2 Cor 8.7) in such grace?

Is tithing a biblical guideline, command or recommendation?

FOR YOUR OWN NOTES: