

The Blessing of Generosity

Acts 20.32-35

Focus: on embracing Jesus' promise that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Discussion:

- Read Paul's entire speech to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20.17-38.
- What do you think is the reason that Paul's last words to these elders are the promise that it is more blessed to give than to receive?
- If you were to try to explain this promise in v. 35 to a new Christian, how would you put it in your own words?
- What do you think it means to be "more blessed"?
- Surely we aren't supposed to give everything we have away. What guidance would you give to someone trying to figure out how to be more generous? Any scriptures come to mind that help?
- What about our culture makes this promise (v. 35) particularly hard to believe and obey?
- What would your next step of faith and obedience to this promise look like? Please share the following stats about our JOF need and include it in the discussion:
 - we have paid off almost 80% of our debt! \$616,00 remains
 - 1/3 of NW members do not participate in JOF!
 - we will be turning in our pledges during the worship service next Sunday. Commitment Cards can be accessed here: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/7d495f89f8a10ee02758a05be/files/JOF_2016_Commitment_Card_pages_01.pdf

RESOURCES:

this site has a great compilation of verses on our topic of generosity:

<http://generositymovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/GenerosityKeyPassages.pdf>

