

Extravagant Giving

The Secret to an Exciting December

Pastor Eddie Turner
Sunday, November 26, 2017

1 Tim. 6:17-19(MSG) ~ 17-19 Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous.
If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

"I am dreading that traffic at the Avenues and the mall..."
"I am not getting out, people are crazy..."
"People have enough already, they don't need anything else..."

"These kids are spoiled and get anything they want all year long, why go to the effort at Christmas..."
"I'm not going to spend my hard earned money on some silly gift..."

"People just go crazy at Christmas; they should use some common sense when it comes to gift giving at Christmas..."

"It's Christmas and we start seeing these...Counterfeit"

Having you ever been guilty of being a counterfeiter at Christmas?
I am not referring to using fake money to purchase your gifts; I am referring to our motive behind our Christmas giving.

"True Christmas Giving is Extravagant."

John 3:16(NLT) ~ 16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

The type of giving that started the Christmas holiday was "extravagant."

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*God so loved the world that he gave his son- God didn't just give a gift; he gave part of himself-his son-extravagance!*

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The same God who made the worlds could have given some neat stuff-but instead He gave a part of himself-extravagant giving.

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*God so loved the world that He not only gave a son, He gave His only son-extravagant!*

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One son left and others willingly give their life to save that one son-that's an extravagant gift

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*God only had one son and the first Christmas he demonstrated his love to us-by giving that only son as a gift, so that we can have eternal life-extravagant giving!*

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In our hustle and bustle, grab and go Christmas culture, by the time Christmas day gets here, we are weary with the process and are ready for Christmas to be over.

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*Purpose in your heart and mind to be an extravagant giver this year*

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"Well Pastor that's good for people with a lot of financial resources; I have very little financially; or I have very little left over after paying my bills-I can't give an extravagant gift."

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*If that is our mindset, then we have fallen prey to the materialism of this world; in which we measure a person's worth by the cost of their stuff.*

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The amount of money you have to spend on gifts this Christmas has nothing to do with God's view of extravagant giving.

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- *Characteristics of Extravagant Giving:*

*1). Extravagant Giving Exceeds what is Expected:*

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2 Cor. 8:1-5(NLT)- Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia.

²They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

³for I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

⁴They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

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2 Cor. 8:2-4(NLT) ~ <sup>2</sup>They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

<sup>3</sup>For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

<sup>4</sup>They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.

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Extravagant Giving is not a set amount; it is exceeding what is expected.

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Luke 19:1-10(NLT) ~ Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. <sup>2</sup>There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. <sup>3</sup>He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

<sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. <sup>7</sup> But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

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Luke 19:8-9(NLT) - ⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

⁹ Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.

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*Extravagant giving exceeds what is expected:*

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2). Extravagant Giving Exceeds what is Comfortable/Affordable.

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*extravagant giving is not running up credit card debt*

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I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid **the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.**

In other words, if our expenditures on comforts, luxuries and amusement, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little.

“If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charities expenditures exclude them.” (C S Lewis-Mere Christianity)

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C S Lewis states that extravagant giving is sacrificing something we want so that others may be blessed.

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Extravagant giving does not mean spending all of our money on ourselves and then borrowing to give to others.

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1 Chronicles 21:24(NLT) - <sup>24</sup> But King David replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it for the full price. I will not take what is yours and give it to the LORD. I will not present burnt offerings that have cost me nothing!” <sup>24</sup> but King David replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it for the full price. I will not take what is yours and give it to the LORD. I will not present burnt offerings that have cost me nothing!”

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1). Extravagant Giving Exceeds what is Expected:

2). Extravagant Giving Exceeds what is Comfortable/Affordable.

3). Extravagant Giving Will Exceed what is Needed

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Luke 10:30-37(MSG) ~ 30-32 Jesus answered by telling a story. “There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

33-35 “A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I’ll pay you on my way back.’

36 “What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?”

37 “The one who treated him kindly,” the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

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The Message translation says, when the Samaritan saw the man his heart went out to him; He had compassion on the man.

He bandaged his wounds, lifted the man on his donkey, took him to an inn, and gave him additional care once there. He had met the need. He could have have stopped there.

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He gave the innkeeper funds to take good care of the injured man’s future needs while he recovered. And then he said, “If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I’ll pay you on my way back.”

He essentially told the innkeeper, “No matter the cost, take care of this man. There is no limit. If properly taking care of this man costs more than I’ve given you, I will pay when I return.”

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*Extravagant Giving Will Exceed what is Needed*

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1). Allow your giving to exceeds what is expected:

2). Sacrifice something you want so that others can receive. (Allow your giving to exceed what is comfortable or affordable)

3). Allow your giving to exceed what is needed.