

LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

David Welch | “Celebrating Generosity” | 2 Cor. 8:13 & 9:6 | May 7. 8

Gracefully

Is it better to give or to receive? Have you ever received a gift that was rare and precious? One you knew cost someone a lot? Can you share if you have ever given a gift like that? It’s easy to give gifts to the ones we love isn’t it? We take time to carefully choose something that is just right for that person. But what about our enemies; do we give gifts of kindness to those who are a thorn in our side? Do we carefully choose words that will build them up instead of cut them down? Do we give to them gracefully? **Read: Matthew 5:43-48. Discuss** what it means to give gracefully, especially to those who you feel don’t deserve it. Share how you could be the change that changes their life.

Sacrificially

When you think about giving do you count your pennies first? As Christians we are to give unconditionally, not just when we are financially secure. And what’s more we are to do it joyously. Poverty isn’t an excuse for not giving. **Discuss:** If we only give out of surplus we are not really giving unconditionally. We cannot comprehend Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross if we are never willing to make a sacrifice. **Read: Mark 10:17-22 & Mark 12:41-44** and discuss where your heart is.

Integrity

How do you define integrity? “I do it with truth, honor and integrity,” a soldier said to me once when I shook his hand and thanked him for his service to our country. What he was telling me was that he served this country in such a way that circumstances would not corrupt him from the soundness or firmness of what he believed, even if His life depended on it. **Discuss:** As Christians do we give with integrity? Do we give of our time or monies no matter the circumstances? **Read: 2 Cor. 9:7** Discuss what it means to give with a cheerful heart and to give with integrity.

Lifestyle

What do you think your lifestyle says about you? So many people believe that the car they drive, the house they live in, or the clothes they wear define who they are. But what the world believes defines a person isn’t what God believes defines a person. He instructs us to give freely because we have received freely. **Discuss** how the way we give is a reflection of our spiritual condition. Share how the world looks at the outside, but God looks at the inside.

Prayer

Do you pray before making a decision? How often do you pray? Jesus instructs us to pray before everything. Prayer is our line of communication to God Himself. **Discuss:** We must pray believing that His Spirit will guide us and direct us in all things. **Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6** **Share** how God has provided the best advice and guidance to you. **Discuss** how we go about giving back what He has given us.

Written by Misty Miller