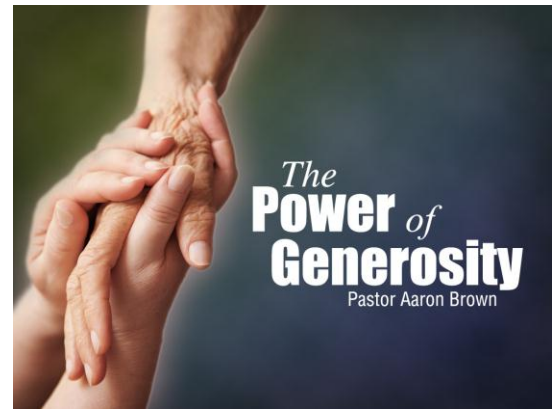


Sermon Discussion Guide

October 30, 2011



1. Are you surprised that greed is placed in the same sentence with sins like murder, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, adultery, prostitution, homosexuality, stealing, drunkenness, wickedness, evil depravity, and slander? Romans 1:29-32, Ephesians 5:3-5 and Colossians 3:5-9
2. Pastor Brown mentioned several signs of greed in our culture today. What other signs of greed do you see?
3. Colossians 3:5 and Ephesians 5:5 compare greed to idolatry. Do you agree?
4. Pastor Brown said the power of greed manifests in at least two ways:

Greed Brings God's Wrath: Colossians 3:6, Ephesians 5:6. Isaiah 57:17, Proverbs 15:27, 28:25, 1 Timothy 6:9

Greed Forfeits God's Kingdom: Ephesians 5:5, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

5. Comment on this quote by Francis Chan in his book Crazy Love.

Nothing should concern us more than our relationship with God; it's about eternity, and nothing compares with that. ...We say to the Creator of all this magnitude and majesty, "Well, I'm not sure You are worth it. You see I really like my car, or my little sin habit, or my money, and I'm really not sure I want to give them up, even if it means I get You. When we put it plainly like this—as a direct choice between God and our stuff—most of us hope we would choose God. But we need to realize that how we spend our time, what our money goes toward, and where we invest our energy is equivalent to choosing God or rejecting Him. ...True faith holds nothing back; it bets everything on the hope of eternity.

6. Why should Christians be the most generous people on earth? Do you consider yourself rich? Comment on these quotes from Randy Stearns in his book The Hole in Our Gospel.

If your income is \$25,000 per year, you are wealthier than approximately 90% of the world's population! If you make \$50,000 per year, you are wealthier than 99% of the world! Does this shock you? Remember, of the 6.7 billion people on earth, almost half of them live on less than \$2.00 a day. Our difficulty is that we see our American lifestyles as normative, when in fact, they are grossly distorted compared to the rest of the world.

It is important to put the American Church in perspective. Simply stated, it is the wealthiest community of Christians in the history of Christendom. How wealthy? The total income of American churchgoers is 5.2 trillion dollars. It would take just a little over 1% of the income of American Christians to lift the poorest one billion people out of extreme poverty.

7. Pastor Brown said the power of generosity manifests in at least two ways:

Generosity Brings God's Blessings: Malachi 3:10

Generosity Builds God's Kingdom: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

8. How do you think God looks upon the American church when the following could be accomplished if we would be obedient and give a tithe to build his kingdom?

- Bring an end to world hunger
- Provide clean drinking water to every person
- Provide drugs and medical supplies for the millions suffering from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis
- Save the lives of 26,000 children die day b/c illness, starvation
- Provide an education for every child in the world
- Provide a safety net for tens of millions orphans in the world. (Source: The Hole in Our Gospel page 219)