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WEEK 6 | **THE BLESSED LIFE PART 3 - THE CHEERFUL LIFE**

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you so much for everything you continue to do in our lives, and for who you continue to be at all times. We count ourselves as blessed recipients of your grace and mercy. You, O Lord, are MORE THAN ENOUGH for us. Help us to find complete contentment and fulfilment in your joy! We love you, our precious King! In Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

What moment or event this year has brought you the most cheer?

NOTES

WORD

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

[2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15](#)

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at the table.

³ Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

[JOHN 12:1-8](#)

Authentic generosity is usually seen as a byproduct of having experienced undeserved, empowering generosity. When we read about God providing seed for the sower and bread for food in 2 Corinthians 9, we understand that we must discern when to sow and when to eat.

The key is in verse 11: “You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”

- 1. God wants to enrich us in every way, not just financially.**
- 2. The enrichment exists for us to be generous in every way.**
- 3. All of this is done out of thanksgiving to God.**

We see this embodied in the lavish offering that Mary offers to Jesus, which boggles Judas, who cannot understand how someone could spend a whole year of wages on perfume for the feet of Jesus.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your ability to give away your finances lavishly? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. What do you think the “cheerful giver” that Paul refers to in 2 Corinthians 9:7 looks like? Do you consider yourself a cheerful giver?
3. In verse 10, the Apostle Paul writes that God will supply the church at Corinth with seed for sowing and bread for food, then multiply the seed for sowing. How do you personally discern what is to be sown (given, donated, offered, gifted) and what is to be eaten (consumed or saved)?
4. In John 12, we read about Mary who took around half a kilo of expensive ointment to pour out and anoint the feet of Jesus. This cost almost a year’s worth of salary. This type of giving does not make sense to the layperson, but is honoured by Jesus. Have you ever sensed God calling you to give something away that made no sense?
5. Have you experienced God’s generosity towards you in receiving his Son, Jesus, and the life that is made available to you through his death on the cross? If not, would you like to? If so, how do you respond towards God and others in generosity?