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### PRAYER

Father in Heaven, you always provide for all your creatures so that all may live as you have willed. You have blessed our country with rich human and natural resources to be used to your honour and glory and for the well-being of everyone.

We are deeply sorry for the wrong use of these your gifts and blessings through acts of injustice, bribery, and corruption, as a result of which many of our people are hungry, sick, ignorant, and defenseless.

Only you alone can heal us and our nation of this sickness. We beg you, touch our lives and the lives of our leaders and people, so that we may all realise the evil of bribery and corruption and work hard to eliminate them.

Raise up for us God-fearing people and leaders who will care for us and lead us in the part of peace, prosperity, and progress.

We ask these through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- [Mwebantu, Prayer Against Bribery and Corruption](#)

### WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

When you think of someone in your life who is GENEROUS, who immediately comes to mind?

### NOTES

## WORD

<sup>1</sup> "He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."<sup>6</sup> So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."<sup>8</sup> And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."<sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

### [LUKE 19:1-10](#)

"Veteran pastor Kent Hughes, who served nearly thirty years at College Church in Wheaton, Illinois, says the contrast is unmistakable: how we handle our money has everything to do with how we orient on Jesus. Generosity is more than tithing, and more than just money. The rich young ruler chose his wealth over Jesus, but for Zacchaeus, meeting the Messiah loosed his hold on his material possessions. There's a very intentional theology of generosity in the Gospel of Luke in particular, and the point, as Hughes captures it, is generosity is a sign of a regenerate soul.

A stingy person can give ten percent, says Hughes. 'Ten percent is good, but that's not the point. The point is to be generous.' He points out that the total prescribed giving in the old covenant amounted to about 23%, not ten. Tithing isn't necessarily a sign of grace. It can be very legalistic. The issue is giving sacrificially. 'Christians ought to give in such a way that there are things we forego in order to be generous — that vacation, that new car. Christianity encompasses all of our life.' And so the regenerate are generous — not just with their finances, but with their time and possessions."

**-Kent Hughes and John Piper, *Theology Refresh: Podcast for Christian Leaders***

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

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

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = never/none at all; 10 = always/extreme), how would you rate your ability/frequency to give money away? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Do you find it hard to be generous? If so, what seem to be the obstacles? If not, what might be the secret to you being generous?
3. "And giving gladly rests on the great why of Christian generosity: that Christ himself — our Savior, Lord, and greatest treasure — demonstrated the ultimate in generosity in coming to save us." - Kent Hughes. If generosity is a sign of a regenerate or "saved" soul, have you experienced God's generosity personally, first-hand?
4. If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you be willing to acknowledge him as your God, enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life, and as the God who loves you? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus?

Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## PRAYER