**Contagious Generosity - March 20, 2016**

**“What is my contribution”**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
    their righteousness endures forever.”

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NIV)**

**1. Generosity starts with cultivating a culture.**

Vs. 6-8…

**2. Every act of generosity is a seed.**

Vs. 10…

“Listen carefully to what I am saying—and be wary of the shrewd advice that tells you how to get ahead in the world on your own. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. Stinginess impoverishes.”

**Mark 4:24-25 (MSG)**

**3. We are called to astonishing generosity.**

vs. 11…

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

**Matthew 5:38-42 (NASB)**

**4. We are merely stewards of God’s provision.**

vs. 12…

**5. Generosity is the new form of Evangelism.**

Vs. 13…

**Announcements:**

\*March. 20th - Connect 1.0 & 2.0 @ 5:00 PM Come find out more about Awaken and learn how to get Connected! Dinner & Childcare Provided!

\*March 25th - 6PM - 9PM Easter Egg Hunt at City Hall… We still need volunteers.

\*March 26th - 8AM - 11AM Easter Egg Hunt at City Hall… We still need volunteers.

\*March 27th - Easter Sunday! Who are you bringing with you? Every child (birth to 5th grade) will leave with goodies.

\*April 10th - Beach Baptism and Picnic