



UPCOMING DATES ...

Man Church -7 November
Holy Spirit Conference – 17-19 November
Water Baptisms – 26 November

Start In – Mondays 7.30pm & Sundays 4pm
Kids “Blast” (Kindy to Yr6) – Sundays Nights
Imagine Recovery – Every Thursday Night

2017 – CG Notes #30

STRONGER – Stronger by Sowing Generously

Title: Sow Generously

Key Verses:

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NKJV)

*²⁴ There is one who scatters, yet increases more;
And there is one who withholds more than is right,
But it leads to poverty.*

*²⁵ The generous soul will be made rich,
And he who waters will also be watered himself.*

I recently learned that we have just experienced one of the driest winters on record with 76 days between any measureable rainfall. I remember that there were a few times we had a slight drizzle that only served to make the car look dirtier than it already was.

Now, at last Spring is here and the seeds in my garden have sprouted and the lawn is greening up because of one basic reason: rain, lots of it - water poured out upon the dry, thirsty ground. Seeds need the rain.

Sow

Our key verses use the metaphors of seed being sown and water being poured out, both of which will help us better understand our theme for this month: Sowing Generously. We will learn that the ways of the Lord are most often not those of our natural inclinations.

We begin with Proverbs 11:24: "There is one that scatters, yet increases more ..."

In ancient times, particularly with grain crops, the seed was sown in the field by means of scattering – that is the farmer would throw and scatter the seed as he walked through the field. He would scatter in measured doses – usually a handful at a time.



Read Matthew 13:3-9 The parable of the sower

- **Reflect on this method of planting seed.**
- **Do you think this method is effective?**
- **What are the benefits and risks?**

Another term for this method of planting is called “broadcasting”. As a method, it has its merits and detractions. It does not require much skill or special implements, it’s quick and it’s inexpensive. The detractions are that there is no uniformity of sowing and the seed could easily be scattered in a place where it would not grow. If moist conditions do not exist, the seed will not sprout and there will be no crop.

Sow generously

We can understand then, that the more generously the seed is broadcast, the greater the possibility that some of the seed will fall upon good soil where it can sprout and grow.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (GNT)

Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop.

Proverbs 11:24 uses the metaphor of seed sowing to describe the attitude and the actions of the generous soul. “The one who scatters” possesses a liberal nature, so much so that it appears they are like the farmer tossing the seed into the air with only a general idea of the direction he intends it to go. It’s as if he throws the seed into the air with great joy. This is contrasted with the sower who possibly is the sort who counts every seed and drops them one at a time. That means very few seeds are ever sown.

Discuss:

- **We need to be responsible sowers (givers) and it is important that we use wisdom as we give. There is however, another side to consider and that is being “the one who withholds more than is right.”**

What might cause reservations in someone’s heart and prevent them from being generous?

- **What does the Scripture teach is the result of being unwilling to share what we have?**

Proverbs 11:24 (MSG)

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

Read: Matthew 26:6-13

- This gift of expensive ointment seemed lavish and unnecessary to whom?
- Why do you think this was so?
- In what ways can generosity be sometimes misunderstood?

The watered soul

All seed requires moisture in order for it to germinate, put down roots and send up shoots. Seed remains dormant where there is no moisture.

Proverbs 11:25

*²⁵ The generous soul will be made rich,
And he who waters will also be watered himself.*

The metaphor changes from seeds scattered to water being poured out on dry ground.

Discuss:

- Just as there are different ways to describe generosity, there are many different ways that we can be generous.
- List some of the ways you have experienced generosity, both in giving and receiving.

“... And he who waters will also be watered himself.”

In this verse of Scripture we see the principle of more than was given coming upon the generous soul. A rough literal translation could be this: “He that satiates and saturates will have water poured out, water thrown upon them.”

Have you ever had a good old drenching in a water fight? It becomes hilarious after a while. This is the image of the Scripture. The generous person waters the dry ground of need in the life of another. It might be in a measured way but the watering is done until the soil is saturated – the need is met. But that’s not how it comes back to them – it returns like a bucket of water thrown all at once!

Someone has said “You can’t out-give God” and many of us have proven that to be true.

“You can’t out-give God!”

This from Ps Rick Warren:

“Consider this: Either you believe the promises of God or you think He’s lying. There’s really no other alternative. You’ll find more promises in the Bible about generosity than anything else. Why? Because it’s a principle God wants us to learn.

I’ve discovered this over and over in my life. Kay and I have been raising our giving every year since we were married. I didn’t tell anyone for almost 30 years. Early on there were some tight years. At times, we could only raise our giving a quarter of a percent. Even in tight times, we wanted to be more generous than the year before. We wanted to break the grip of materialism in our lives and become more like Jesus in the process. And God blessed us more and more!

We can’t out-give God. He’ll just keep blessing us and blessing us. It’s an amazing sense of joy to see God out-give you every single time.”