



## Generosity and Greed (Abraham & Lot)

### A Generous Offer - A Foolish Choice

Genesis 13:1-18/ Genesis 14:12/ Genesis 19:1

### Two Different Maps

Genesis 13:8-13/ Philippians 2:3-5

Abraham's Map: **GENEROSITY**

Lot's Map: **GREED**

### Two Different Destinations

Generosity leads to a place called **BLESSED**

Genesis 13:14-17/ Philippians 2:5-11

Greed leads to a place called **DESTINATION SICKNESS**

Genesis 13:12-13, 14:12, 19:1 & 30-38/ 2 Peter 2:7-8/ Ecclesiastes 5:10 & Proverbs 28:22

1 Timothy 6:9-10/ Ephesians 5:3-6 & Colossians 3:5/ Proverbs 17:1, 15:27 & 28:25/ Proverbs 22:1

### The Path of Generosity

- (1) It starts with the right **PRIORITIES**  
Matthew 6:33/ Matthew 22:36-40/ Proverbs 23:4-5/ Proverbs 19:22
- (2) It flows out of biblical **HUMILITY**  
John 13:3-5/ Philippians 2:3/ Matthew 20:25-28
- (3) It refuses to **KEEP SCORE**  
Matthew 20:26-28
- (4) Start **TODAY**
- (5) Do it for **JESUS**  
Colossians 3:17



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Colossians 3:17

## Life Group Study Questions

### For the week of November 7, 2021

#### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

#### MY STORY

1. In the message this weekend, we observed Abraham making his younger nephew Lot a generous offer that broke every cultural rule and protocol. Have you ever been the beneficiary of a very generous and gracious offer? (i.e., a position, an experience, or a financial gift)

2. Pastor Larry guided us toward a path of generosity in response to the story of Abraham and Lot. Reflecting on the five items he mentioned, is there one you find more challenging? Is there one that comes more easily for you?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Often when we hear the word "greed," we instantly think about money. As we saw in the passage/story from this weekend, greed is far broader and deeper than how we handle our finances. It also includes how we leverage our power, prestige and preferences— and anything that is rightfully ours. Let's look again at one of the key passages from this weekend's message.

##### ***Philippians 2:3-8 New International Version (NIV)***

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

Practically, what might it look like to put the needs and interests of others first? Think of some specific examples from your own life situations and experiences.

When we consider what Jesus humbly did for us, what are some ways we might leverage our finances, power, prestige and preferences for the good of others?

2. This weekend Pastor Larry mentioned that stinginess and greed are two sides of the same coin. Stinginess involves hoarding money, power, prestige or preferences, and greed involves pursuing them. Read the proverbs below and answer the corresponding questions.

### **The Stingy**

#### **Proverbs 23:6-7 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> *Do not eat the food of a begrudging host,  
do not crave his delicacies;  
<sup>7</sup> for he is the kind of person  
who is always thinking about the cost.  
“Eat and drink,” he says to you,  
but his heart is not with you.*

Thinking about the stingy host from the passage above, how might someone appear generous, but really be influenced by stinginess?

Can you think of a time when you encountered someone who made a generous offer, but you knew it was a begrudging offer due to their stinginess?

### **The Greedy**

#### **Proverbs 21:20 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> *The wise store up choice food and olive oil,  
but fools gulp theirs down.*

#### **Proverbs 29:7 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> *The righteous care about justice for the poor,  
but the wicked have no such concern.*

In addition to the command to not be greedy and stingy, it is also a biblical principal for the wise to store up. How might you describe the differences between being greedy/stingy, being a good steward of resources and “storing up choice food and oil for the future”?

## TAKING IT HOME

Since greed is hardwired into our sin nature, the only solution is to pursue generosity because greed and generosity cannot coexist. As you reflect on your own life, which of the four below may be your biggest area of growth for generosity?

- Finances
- Power
- Prestige
- Preferences

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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### Great Holiday Serving Opportunities

**Thanksgiving:** Give a local family the chance to celebrate Thanksgiving by buying them a turkey or, better yet, an entire meal. We have partners in Fallbrook, Vista, Ramona & Poway.

**Christmas:** Adopt a family for Christmas via one of our partners: Fallbrook Food Pantry, North County Lifeline (Vista) or a North Coast family.

For complete details and specifics, check out [northcoastcommunityservice.org/](http://northcoastcommunityservice.org/).

Questions: Contact Mary, [mbishop@northcoastchurch.com](mailto:mbishop@northcoastchurch.com)