Pastor Jay’s Jottings

October 2024

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen savior and Lord. Amen. 2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Have you ever received a gift that was well… simply awesome? You knew that the person who gave it to you thought it through, and it was given out of love. They knew you would relish it, and they simply wanted to give you something that would bring you joy. Isn’t that an amazing feeling? To be loved so deeply, that someone thought of you enough to shower you with a generous gift that you could never really repay? It is an amazing gift to receive. Now, have you ever given a gift that you knew someone would like so much, and you just wanted to give it to them because you knew they would like it, or that they needed it? You gave it to them, not wanting anything in return other than to know it gave them joy. If you have given or received in either of these ways, then you have gotten a glimpse of generosity. And we will be focusing on generous giving in October. What is generous giving? Have you ever wanted to give to someone or something but were afraid that you wouldn’t have enough left? How does Jesus model generosity? These are all questions that we will address in our “8 days of generosity.” (Details coming soon!) Beginning on Sunday, October 13th and ending October 20th, we will use eight days to look at aspects of being generous in our lives with our finances, our time, and all that God has given to us. Please understand that generosity isn’t a gimmick. It isn’t a program. Generosity in a Christian is not a choice, it is a response. Of course, we choose who we can be generous to and how we are generous, but generosity is a defining characteristic of living a changed life for Jesus Christ. It is a response through our lives that leads with the idea that other people come first, and we use our available resources to help enhance the lives of our neighbor. It is a lifestyle lived for Jesus and modeled by Jesus. Jesus showed us a generous life. He shared all he had with others, sharing his wisdom, his healing, and ultimately his death. Jesus enhanced lives, and lives were lived generously in response to having met Jesus. A generous life enhances others’ lives. Join me and the FELC community in October, as we take a look at generosity, and how generosity is a response of our hearts to the indescribable gift of Jesus Christ. God is the ultimate gift giver, because he gives from himself. He gives us his love, his future, and because he gives us his son Jesus, we respond by giving to others in return. We give not out of obligation, or duty, or guilt, but out of a response to the one who first gave to us. We will never be able to outgive God, but as a response for His indescribable gift of Jesus, we give generously to others. I look forward to seeing where our generosity will change our community and glorify the Kingdom of God.

God Loves You and So Do I,

Pastor Jay