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the BIG GIVE

A GUIDE TO PRACTICE
EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY



INTRODUCTION

THERE'S A STORY IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

about rich people giving large amounts of money at the temple.

Along comes a poor widow and throws in two copper coins.

In this moment, Jesus gathered his disciples and said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

I love that story for so many reasons.

FIRST: GOD NOTICES WHAT OTHERS MISS.

Most people would make a big deal out of the big gifts and gloss over the smaller one, but Jesus noticed this humble donation. Today, it might seem like generosity only makes the news when it comes from CEOs or celebrities. But most churches are funded by ordinary people.

No matter the amount, when you give, God pays attention.

SECOND: WHAT JESUS CONSIDERS IMPRESSIVE IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT PEOPLE CONSIDER IMPRESSIVE.

The widow's sacrifice was the headline of the story. It wasn't the amount, but her attitude. When Paul later instructed the church on how to give, he said we should give happily, not out of obligation, but out of joy.

As you think about your own personal giving, remember the story of the widow.

Think about how your contribution—whether large or small by the world's standard—can be used to make a difference in our community and around the world.

Your life and contribution will impact **others**, make a difference in your **church**, and shape the **future**.

THINK
ABOUT

OTHERS

WHENEVER TRAGEDY STRIKES, a lot of people speak up to offer thoughts and prayers.

We should always be grateful for the thoughts and appreciative of the prayers. Yet, at the same time, wouldn't it be great if those thoughts and prayers inspired action?

When you give to the BIG Give, you are taking a tangible step. You are not just thinking about doing something, you are taking action.

During the days of the apostles, Paul commended the church at Corinth for its incredible generosity. This church was giving faithfully to support a community that they had never met.

Their generosity made a difference in the lives of people they didn't even know!

You might never meet the people impacted by your gift, but you can rest assured God knows them. You might be one step, two steps, or ten steps removed from the people we are helping, but your giving makes a tangible difference.

Every act of generosity toward the BIG Give is combined with others to make a real difference in our community and world. Your gift is going to be used to make other people's lives better.

Mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, neighbours and co-workers will be impacted because of your extraordinary generosity.



GIVING IS A GIANT LEVER
POSITIONED ON THE
FULCRUM OF THE WORLD,
ALLOWING US TO MOVE
MOUNTAINS IN THE NEXT
WORLD.

BECAUSE WE GIVE,
ETERNITY WILL BE
DIFFERENT,
FOR OTHERS AND FOR US.



THINK
ABOUT

OUR CHURCH

EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH IS MORE THAN A BUILDING, more than a collection of ministries, and more than a lineup of programs.

We're here to be a light in the darkness and a place of hope in our region. With a deep sense of purpose and an urgent mission in front of us, we're a group of people joining forces to bring the Gospel to our community.

Of course, those things take resources. But we don't just leverage resources to survive; we leverage resources to advance the Gospel. We don't spend money to keep the lights on; we spend money to BE the light.

There's a story in the Gospel of Matthew about an interaction between Jesus and the Apostle Peter. Jesus had led the disciples 40 miles north from Capernaum to a town called Caesarea Philippi, the home of the temple god Pan.

Here Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people think I am?" His disciples said, "People think you're Elijah or Moses back from the dead." Then, Jesus asked His disciples directly: "Who do you say I am?"

Peter speaks up and boldly says, "You are the Messiah, the Christ." Jesus praises Peter's answer and then makes a declaration of His own...

... which includes the words, "I will build my church."

This is a powerful statement because Jesus is saying the church belongs to Him. Not a person, organization, committee, denomination, synod, nation, group, conference, district, or network.

These modern structures have their place, but when you step all the way back, it's important to realize the Church belongs to Christ.

He is the head of the Church. He is in charge of the Church. He is the boss. The Church is ultimately His responsibility.

This makes our mission that much more important. And it means that your part in it, no matter the size of it, has eternal ramifications.

No matter what happens in the world, the Church will still exist because it belongs to Jesus.

"We're building something that will outlive us, and you're a part of it."

Akil Thompson





THINK
ABOUT

THE

FUTURE

THE NEXT TIME YOU DRIVE DOWN A ROAD, think about the people who built that road.

The work they did in the past made it possible for you to drive somewhere in the present.

Generosity works like that, too.

Sure, your gifts help meet immediate needs. But you're also making a difference in the days to come.

You're paving the way to future blessings for people you may not even know.

In Genesis 12:1-2, God told Abraham that he would be the “father of a great nation” and all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him. Abraham’s faithfulness to follow God meant countless generations would be blessed.

There's no way Abraham could have wrapped his mind around that promise.

While we may not fully realize what our generosity means for the future, most of us can look back and see how other people's generosity and kindness have impacted us.

We are where we are because of others.

The future will be blessed because of your generosity. Your giving doesn't just impact today, but it impacts tomorrow.



Your giving doesn't just impact today; it impacts tomorrow!

IMPACTING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



HAVEN TORONTO

Haven Toronto is the only facility in Canada dedicated to serving elder homeless men 50+. Haven Toronto is a drop-in centre where elder, homeless, marginally housed, and socially isolated men can feel safe, form friendships, and become part of a community.

PEEL CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Peel Children's Aid Society strives to ensure the safety and well-being of the community's most vulnerable children by helping parents and caregivers build healthy families and provide a safe environment for children and youth.



MISSISSAUGA FOOD BANK

The Mississauga Food Bank has a vision where no one goes hungry. Their mission is to relieve hunger in Sauga by providing and promoting access to healthy food.



We are believing God for **200k**

50k or 25% of the total BIG Give

I love my city.

As we achieve our goal, we will distribute as follows:

- \$5k/local strategic partners (Mississauga Food Bank, Peel CAS, & Haven Toronto).
- \$35k Extraordinary Kindness & Love My City Days

150k or 75% of the total BIG Give

I love my church.

As we achieve our goal, we will set aside savings for the lease or purchase of the future home of Extraordinary Church. (We have considered leasing accommodations that would facilitate the growth we are experiencing. Leasing rates are \$12k-15k/month.)

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to learn about this year's BIG Give initiative and all of the organizations and people this special offering will impact. We encourage you to take time to pray for our church, our city, and our future and prayerfully consider how you and your family feel led to contribute.

The best is yet to come!



BIG GIVE OFFERING

NOVEMBER 6
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Giving for the BIG Give will
be available through
JANUARY 31, 2023

You can give online at
extraordinarychurch.ca/generosity
by selecting the "BIG Give"
designation.