



“What happens here doesn't stay here”
#6 Radical Generosity
Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
November 20, 2016

“We'd all like a reputation for generosity our problem is that we'd all like to buy it cheap”

1. READ and HAVE A DISCUSSION based around the next two paragraphs.
What do you think? Is this correct, not correct, and why?

In Sundays message it was stated that the new world religion is now “The Market”, meaning that the world of commerce, buying, selling, marketing, consumerism, spending, acquiring goods, retirement planning, investing etc. has now become the dominant force in our lives. Allegiance to this “Market God” is eclipsing allegiance to the real God. It is fascinating that while religions argue among themselves as to who is right, no religion has stepped forward to challenge the threat to the worship of God by worshipping “The Market God”. In Christianity, God has sometimes been defined as omnipotent (possessing all power), omniscient (having all knowledge), and omnipresent (existing everywhere). How do you see these same qualities in “The Market God” of today?

Let me be clear. Performing necessary roles and providing important goods and services are not the same things as commanding ultimate allegiance. Idolatry means that something has taken the place of God. The market can be a good thing and even necessary, but it now commands too much, claims ultimate significance, controls too much space in our lives, and has gone far beyond its proper limits....

Jim Wallis “The Market has Become God”

2. **READ John 3:16** and then discuss the merits of the following statement.

ALL OF THE MARKET RELIGION CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD...GET
ALL OF THE TEACHING OF CHRIST CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD...GIVE

3. **READ Matthew 5:38-42**

- a. What do you find “radical” about this verse?
- b. Why do you think this verse frightens some people?

4. **READ Matthew 5:46-48**

- a. In what ways does this verse talk about radical generosity in our relationships?

5. **READ Hebrews 13:2**

- a. Why do you think it is becoming more difficult in our generation to practice generosity in the area of hospitality?
- b. If generosity was defined as ‘inviting someone into your space’ what do you think of inviting someone to your favorite restaurant and paying the bill? Is this generosity?

6. COMMENT: *One of the areas in which we need to learn to be generous is with our power.*
 - a. In what ways do we have power, or what gives us power in our lives?
 - b. What would it look like to give away some of that power?
 - c. How would you do that?
 - d. How did Jesus give away power?
 - e. How are wealth and power related?
 - f. How can giving away wealth help us to give away our power?

7. **READ Mark 4:26-32; 2 Corinthians 9:6**
 - a. In what ways is being generous a 'seed'?
 - b. What do you think stops us from living lives of radical generosity?

8. COMMENT: *The market's fear of scarcity must be replaced with the abundance of a loving God. And the first commandment of The Market, "There is never enough," must be replaced by the dictums of God's economy; namely, there is enough if we share it.*
 - a. How do you see this 'scarcity' mindset being promoted by The Market?
 - b. What specific actions does The Market take to make us feel there is never enough?
 - c. Comment on the statement above that "there is enough, if we will share it". How is this way of living so radically different from the way most people live?
 - d. What ways can we reorient our lives from being hoarders to being sharers?

9. **READ Proverbs 11:24-25**
 - a. What do you think about this statement?

RADICAL GENEROSITY IS THE VERY NATURE OF GOD. IF WE ARE GOING TO BE SPIRITUALLY MATURE WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PRACTICE RADICAL GENEROSITY
 - b. Can we be spiritually mature without practicing generosity?

10. BRAINSTORM with your group various ways we could learn to become generous people in our relationships, our hospitality, our power and our wealth.
 - a. What are other areas of our lives where we may need to become generous?
 - b. How are we going to take the first step in these areas?

CHRISTMAS AT ALL NATIONS

YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS:

1. Hats and Mittens are needed for the students at Queen Elizabeth II Public School. **We have received a total of 155 pairs of mittens, 124 hats, 22 scarves.** ONLY 39 pairs of mittens and 70 hats left to go! **The children thank you!**
2. BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS: All 38 teenagers have been taken chosen by individuals, families or small groups...**THANK YOU!!!!**
Gifts are due back by Sunday Dec. 4th!
3. THE GREAT CHRISTMAS OFFERING. This year we are:
 - Helping create a safe place for the homeless though The NOAH Community Hub.
 - Supporting the Louis Street association after school homework club for kids in that area.
 - Providing the Living Nativity free of charge to all who attend
 - Sponsoring our magnificent Christmas Gala and reception

Every one of these events has the potential to change lives. Your sacrifice could change the eternal destiny of and adult or a child. Please give generously.

CONCERTS:

Wednesday NOVEMBER 30th 7 p.m., **THE ENNIS SISTERS** national Christmas Tour comes to ANC. Down East folk and Celtic music at its best.
Tickets at the Giving Centre (\$25.00 cash only)

Sunday DECEMBER 5th 7:30 p.m. the **HEART AND SOUL** 21st Annual Christmas Concert. Whether singing accompanied or a capella, this fourteen member vocal group has a song repertoire ranging from sacred to secular, classical to contemporary, including jazz, pop, rock & folk. They will be joined this year by guest musicians Iona Reed (piano) and Jack Broumpton (percussion) and others. Heart & Soul is raising funds this year for The China Hand Drum Project at the Shepherd's Field Vocational Center in China. General admission \$25.

Sunday morning 10 am DECEMBER 18th **THE CHRISTMAS GALA:** invite your friends, a free gift to our community with a reception to follow.

DECEMBER 20-24th 7:30 each night **LIVING NATIVITY** outside at Science North

Sunday DECEMBER 25th 10 am Our **ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE.**