

GIVE 'TIL YOU'RE HAPPY

LOVE GIVE GROW



John 16:21 (NRSV) *“When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.”*

Big Idea:

Generous Love Hurts but Leads to Joy

1. How does it Hurt? (John 16:21)

Hebrews 12:2 *“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.”*

2. Where’s the Joy (2 Cor 9:7)

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Questions for “Give ‘til you’re happy

1. Can you think of a time where you pushed through pain to experience advantage or joy? Share your experience.
2. Mother Teresa once said: “True love means this: give until it hurts.”
 - a. *What is the wisdom of her words?*
 - b. *What is she missing?*
3. Why do you think some people are surprised by the pain that accompanies sacrifice?
4. When you read Hebrews 12:2, what do you think Jesus’ joy was? How is this the same and/or different from our joy?
5. What is the connection between Matthew 25:31-46 and a generous lifestyle?

Questions for Love, Give, Grow

1. A tithe is 10% of a person’s income. In Old Testament times people gave a tithe plus alms and various offerings. **At The Journey Church, the Tithe would be what we give to the General Fund (to God’s Church), Alms would be for Community Care (to help those in need), and Offerings would be for one of our several other funds (mission, building, special).**
 - a. *Why do you think people confuse Tithes, Alms, & Offerings as being the same thing?*
 - b. *What kind of planning would be required for a family to start giving a full tithe and alms and offerings?*
 - c. *What impact does debt have on our ability to give generously?*
 - d. *What would happen to the work of the local church if all God’s people were obedient in giving a tithe?*
2. The only thing Jesus talked about more than money was the Kingdom of God.
 - a. *If understanding this was so important to Jesus what can we do to have a more biblical understanding of money?*
 - b. *What can we do to be less defensive (or offended) when discussing money?*
3. Paul writes: “God loves a cheerful giver.” What are some marks of a cheerful giver? What one thing can you do this week to become more cheerful in giving?
4. For a Christian, the purpose of frugality is to create margins to enable generosity. What are few ways you could be more frugal (live simply) so you could be more generous with the money God has entrusted to you?
5. Who are you becoming in terms of your generosity and the connection between loving, giving, & growing?