

OPENING DOORS

Are you giving God your first and best? | Destin Garner

ICEBREAKER:

What is one of the most memorable or meaningful gifts you have ever given someone else? What made that gift so special, for you or the recipient?

READ:

2 Corinthians 8-9; Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33

DISCUSS/OBSERVE:

1. What is something we learn about God from 2 Corinthians 8:9 or this sermon?
2. The example of the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8-9 shows them giving generously out of their poverty. How does this challenge the idea that we need to have a surplus before we can afford to be generous?
3. What is the relationship between our hearts and our spending habits according to Matthew 6:19-21? In what ways can you see this playing out in your own life or in the culture around us?
4. How does Jesus' command to "seek first His kingdom" help reshape our priorities away from the extremes of becoming "savers looking for security" and "spenders looking for satisfaction"?
5. Where do I stand spiritually in light of these scriptural truths?
6. How do these scriptures increase your hope in God and faith in His future mercy and provision?

REFLECTION:

Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider and review your expenditures over the past month. If you ranked what you loved only by your bank statement – where would God rank?

Write a prayer thanking God for his extravagant and costly gift of salvation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Ask Him to reveal any desires or fears that keep you from being a good steward of the gifts He's entrusted to you.

APPLICATION:

Destin mentioned the principle of preeminence states that God is not just your top priority, but “the page on which all your priorities are written.” Considering your finances, what would it take or what would it look like for you take a next step and begin giving God your “first and best?”