WEEK 2 - GENEROSITY IN THE LAW
OVERVIEW

Nowhere in the Bible does it say we are supposed to give a tenth of our money to our church. So where do we get such an idea? In this message, we will explore what the Law of Moses required of the ancient Israelites. From "firstfruits" tithes to be eaten as a community, to provisions set aside for priests, foreigners, and the poor, to leaving the edges of one's fields unharvested so those *without* land can eat, the law is full of provocative concepts of how to live a life of abundant, open-handed generosity – a lifestyle built on gratitude for what God has given and obedience to his call for justice in this broken world.

Although we are no longer bound by these *specific* laws, the spirit behind them continues to invite us to consider whether our own lives are lived in line with the generous heart of God.

You must set aside a tithe of your crops—one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year…
Doing this will teach you always to fear the LORD your God.
Deuteronomy 14:22-23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of when you hear the word *generous*?
2. Barry said that "our posture of generosity is not only a response to what God has given us, but it is a means by which we experience God's blessing - his wholeness, his abundance, his presence." What does this mean to you?
3. How does our generosity show the world that there is another way to live?
4. Read Leviticus 27:30. How did this tenth, or tithe, help ensure that the people of God can worship and grow?
5. What is one way that generosity of the Israelites helped to care for the vulnerable? (Deuteronomy 14:28-29, Leviticus 19:9-10)
6. How could "having a party" be considered a reason for generosity? (Deuteronomy 14:22-23)
7. Barry suggested three ways to apply these principles of generosity to our lives today:
   a. Check your palms.
   b. Fight for margin.
   c. Give to your church.
   What do these mean? Do you see the way you live your life as aligned with the generous heart of God?

RESOURCES
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