



BUILDING A KINGDOM CULTURE

Part 26

Building Blocks of a Kingdom Culture

A People who...

1. Build a Kingdom Culture
2. OBEY
3. COMMIT
4. ARE AUTHENTIC
5. BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
6. GIVE WORTHY SERVICE TO THEIR KING
7. OFFER THEIR LIVES
8. ARE COMMITTED
9. WORSHIP TOGETHER
10. BLESS
11. TESTIFY TO THE RESURRECTION
12. GIVE THANKS
13. PRAY
14. MEET TOGETHER

1. ACT JUSTLY, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLY
2. MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY
3. ARE READY TO TELL THEIR STORY
4. REPENT
5. LOVE THE HOUSE
6. INVEST WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN THEM
7. FEED ON WHAT IS GOOD FOR THEM
8. WAIT FOR THEIR KING
9. SOAR LIKE EAGLES
10. EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT
11. PROPHECY

Building a Kingdom Culture

‘Becoming a **people** whose **beliefs** and **behaviours** are increasingly **aligned** with the **heart** of **God**...

Revealing heaven to each other and **to our world.**

*'Our Father who dwells in
Heaven, May Your holy
Name be honoured. Let Your
Kingdom come, let Your will
be done here in Elim Church
Aberystwyth as it is in
Heaven. Amen.'*





A People Who ARE GENEROUS

Building a Kingdom Culture 26

'Acts 2 Church'

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were **selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.** 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and **generous hearts,** 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Dave's Lost Wallet

- Rev. Kate Bottley (Pause for Thought, BBC Radio 2, 6th September, 2017)



Prov 11:25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

A People Who ARE GENEROUS

- To encourage greater generosity
- To show that generosity is God's heart (& Kingdom)
- To help us see the blessing of giving hilariously
- To give opportunity to be generous today

Paul's Advice on GIVING

2 Corinthians 8-9

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.** 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Jesus is the Plumb-line For Giving

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

- Paul aligns our motivation
- He is the greatest gift and the greatest giver of all time, history and eternity
- We can never give so much that we exceed what He has already given to and for us

Generosity is God's Heart

- The eternal sharing, loving, giving generous family that is the Trinity
 - So much to give that creation was born
 - All that is is an overflow of the heart of a generous, creator God
- He gave the greatest gift of all

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that **HE GAVE** his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- He wasn't just given to be born, but to die – such a cost
- It is a free gift that we do not deserve (Grace)
- But it demands everything of us

**Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all**

Generosity is at the Heart of His Kingdom

- Many of Jesus' parables talk of a master giving his servants responsibility and care of his investments or his 'kingdom'
- We are stewards and not only servants, but children of the King... we are to carry His generous DNA and seek to excel in Kingdom generosity
- We are blessed, we must bless

“God’s free gift is an unbelievable privilege and it carries with it awesome responsibility”

(Wakely, *Generosity*, 2004, p27)

So What Does Generosity Look Like?

FREE
SNOW

U
HALL



True Generosity Costs

- The picture of snow above dubbed ‘Canadian Generosity’ is a parody of generosity...
- ... Its like me saying to you in a few weeks time when the weeds out the front have grown to epic proportions again
 - ‘we’re feeling generous today so there are free dandelions available to everyone on your way out this morning... please feel free to pull up and take the roots with you too’

True Generosity Costs

- True generosity involves making a choice to prioritise another's needs or desires over our own.
 - Individual, charity, church, organisation
- There is an old joke about the lady who saved all her teabags to send them to missionaries... after she'd used them just the once!
- The challenging truth is that so often we do just this – send our leftovers once we've had our fill

Giving is Good For Us

- We don't give in order to receive but in view of what we've already received
- Giving is good for us
 - It helps us avoid fixating on our own wants and needs
 - It leads us into greater blessing
 - We can know the joy of knowing we've benefitted someone
 - Increases our faith
 - Achieves eternal blessing
- 'Lord increase my ability to be generous with the money, time and resources you have entrusted to me'

Generosity Leads to Blessing

- Perhaps not always monetary or material blessing
 - Although God does meet our needs and teaches that those who can be trusted with little, will be trusted with more
- What kind of blessing are we seeking?
- Where is a our treasure?

Treasures in Heaven

- Where do our priorities lie?

Matt 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- When we arrive in heaven, I don't think we will regret ANY times that we chose to be generous BUT we will regret opportunities we ignored to be generous

Generosity Leads to Blessing

- People think
- ‘If I give I will have less’
- The reality in God’s Kingdom is
- ‘If I give, I have more’
- What we give to God should come first, we don’t just wait and see what we have left!

'Giving to God'

- Tithes and Offerings?
 - It is vital the ministry of local churches be supported
 - Tithes are Old Testament principle but a principle nonetheless
- Paul's distinction between 'Giving to the Lord' and 'Giving to us'
- Support Local Church AND Give to specific individuals and projects
- We cannot meet all the world's needs. But we can certainly meet some (Wakely, p112)

Giving Wisely

- “...it is better to give and to be exploited from time to time than to withhold and to be accused of failing to help someone in need. Of course, we should exercise discernment and not be cheated by criminals and exploiters. But when we meet Jesus on the last day, he will never accuse us of having been too generous” (Wakely, p69)

Giving Hilariously

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

- “Cheerfulness is not a pious smile while we drop our coins secretly into the collection bag. The word Paul uses is *hilaros* for what God loves is hilarity in our giving” (Wakely, p105)

The Widows Offering

- We are only asked to be generous with what we have

Luke 21 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, 2 and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. 3 And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in **MORE** than all of them. 4 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

- His Kingdom is not of this world, the economy works differently

“The amount of money we are able to give for His work is less important in His eyes than the attitude of heart” (Wakely, p104)

In His Kingdom...

SHE

GAVE

MORE

GIVE

- How are you going to apply this today?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to bring someone to mind that He would like you to bless today
- Ask Him to show you how He wants you to bless them... if it is with money, ask Him to give you a specific amount