



I Can See Clearly Now

December 1, 2019

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: When we see as God sees, we are more inclined to do what God says.

Icebreaker: Select one or two questions. What kind of holiday shopper are you? Black Friday? Christmas Eve? Yearlong hoarder? Finish this thought: "It wouldn't be Christmas without ____." Why? If you could start a charity/nonprofit, what would it be?

Key Verse: *Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.* Matthew 3:8 NLT
Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. Matthew 3:8 NIV

Christmas is about giving. The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of generosity. Acts 15:11 says it like this: "*We are saved because the Master Jesus amazingly and out of sheer generosity moved to save us*" (MSG). If it weren't for God's generosity, we would have nothing. Every good thing in your life—including your life—is a gift of God's generosity. God's greatest act of generosity came on the very first Christmas when He gave us Jesus.

Generosity is different than simply giving. Repentance means to change our minds, to change the way we think. One of the ways our minds are changed when we truly follow Jesus is in the way we regard our money and the way we give. We start thinking generously, not simply giving token amounts that are easy for us. Everyone gives on occasion; few are generous. If you live a generous life, you will not simply have moments of giving, you will order your life around generosity, and you will be happy. Happiness is an outcome of a lifestyle of generosity.

Our relationship with God changes the way we think about money as we become generous. **God sees money as a test** How we manage what we assume is ours reflects our devotion to the One to whom it actually belongs. **God sees money as a tool.** Who will you have to show for it? How are you using it? **God sees our use of money as a trademark.** What you do with what you have signifies who you are.

The message of Christmas has not changed after two thousand years. Christmas still reminds us that God is FOR us. It's what Christmas is all about! As our minds are changed to be like God's, our generosity shows the world "we are FOR you!"

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

How would you define a rich person?

We don't feel rich, but we are. We feel generous, but we aren't. Reflect and discuss.

Generous people don't need to be told. What does that mean?

Just because it comes to me doesn't mean it is for me. Explain what this is meaning in your life right now.

Saving is how you say yes to you. Generosity is how you say yes to what is important to you. Neither of these come naturally. How are you doing?

Ask yourself these questions: What are you grateful for? What are you broken over? Find the things that you are grateful for and the things that address the areas that break your heart. Discuss. How can this better direct your finances?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What would define you as rich? *Rich people are not more loved; rich people are more responsible.* Reflect and discuss.

Resourced people should look for opportunities to do more. Resourced how?

We cannot serve God until we dethrone our money idol. What does that look like?

Jesus put a strong emphasis on money and finances. God sees faith and finances as inseparable. He says there is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we handle money. How have you seen that to be true in your life?

Generosity was the hallmark of the early church. God's people have always been characterized by unsettling generosity—the kind of generosity that gives the undeserving what they don't deserve. That's how they get people's attention. What is OUR hallmark? What is mine?

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate how your resources and your use of them are seen from God's perspective. From the perspective of others? Is the way you use your resources a trademark?
2. Carefully consider where you are at this time of year. Decide a good, godly, and generous way to respond to God's generosity to you.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: When we see as God sees, we are more inclined to do what God says.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: John 3:16

Tuesday: Luke 12:20-21

Wednesday: 1 John 3:16-18

Thursday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Friday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)